

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

AZ. LAWSUITS



Looking through papier-mache binoculars, Jorge Mendez, of Phoenix, is dressed up to depict Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio as he joins dozens to protest the SB1070 Arizona immigration law in front of U.S. District Court Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Phoenix.

Read more on Page A3

SPORTS NEWS

CLOSING IN



Overall leader Alberto Contador of Spain greets the crowd on the podium after the 17th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 108.1 miles with start in Pau and finish on Tourmalet pass, Pyrenees region, France, Thursday, July 22, 2010.

Read more on Page A15

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A poster that explains ways to file for unemployment insurance benefits is shown as job seekers look for work at the JobTrain employment office in Menlo Park, Calif., Tuesday, July 20, 2010. Legislation to restore unemployment benefits to millions who have been out of work for more than six months broke free of Senate Republican delaying tactics on Tuesday.

Associated Press

House OKs additional unemployment benefits

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Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez speaks to the media at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday July 22, 2010. Chavez severed Venezuela's diplomatic relations with Colombia on Thursday over claims he harbors guerrillas.

Associated Press

Venezuela severs ties with Colombia

CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez severed Venezuela's diplomatic relations with Colombia on Thursday over claims he harbors guerrillas, and he charged that his neighbor's leader could attempt to provoke a war.

Chavez said he was forced to break off all relations because Colombian officials claim he has failed to move against leftist rebels who allegedly have taken shelter in Venezuelan territory.

Chavez acted moments after Colombian Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos presented a meeting of the Organization of American States in Washington with photos, videos, witness testimony and maps of what he said were rebel camps inside Venezuela and challenged Venezuelan officials to let independent observers visit them.

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House OKs additional unemployment benefits



President Barack Obama signs emergency unemployment benefits legislation in the Oval Office of the White House, Thursday, July 22, 2010, Washington.

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress has approved legislation to restore unemployment benefits to Americans who have been out of work for six months or more, ending a seven-week interruption that caused 2 1/2 million people to lose unemployment benefits averaging about \$300 a week. The 272-152 House vote Thursday will send the measure to President Barack Obama, who has promised to quickly sign it. The House vote came less than 24 hours after a mostly party-line Senate vote Wednesday on the measure, which is just one piece of a larger Democratic jobs agenda that has otherwise mostly collapsed after months of battles with Republicans. Ahead of November congressional elections Democrats can argue by

Associated Press

approving the measure they stand with workers trying to find employment in a sluggish economy while Republicans can charge Democrats are continuing to pile up the federal deficit.

Retroactive payments could go out as early as next week in some states, while in others it could take a few weeks for beneficiaries to receive their money under the legislation, which provides much-needed help to 5 million eligible unemployed workers. About half of those eligible have had their benefits cut off since funding expired June 2.

“Americans who are working day and night to get back on their feet and support their families in these tough economic times deserve more than obstruction and partisan game-playing,” Obama said in a statement Wednesday night. The measure is what remains of a Democratic effort launched

in February to renew elements of last year’s stimulus bill. But Republican opposition forced Democrats to drop \$24 billion in aid to state governments to help them avoid layoffs and higher taxes, as well as a popular package of expired tax cuts and a health insurance subsidy for the unemployed. Most Republicans opposed the measure because it would add \$34 billion to a national debt that has hit \$13 trillion, arguing that it should have been paid for with cuts to other programs, such as unspent money from last year’s economic stimulus bill, which is earning mixed grades at best from voters as unemployment averages 9.5 percent nationwide.

“The other side says that these unemployment benefits stretching to almost two years are needed and must be added

to the \$13 trillion debt, even as they claim their trillion-dollar stimulus plan has been a success at creating millions of jobs,” said Rep. Charles Boustany, a Republican. “It makes you wonder if they’re looking at the same jobs data as the rest of us.”

It is a change of heart for many Republicans who voted for deficit-financed unemployment benefits in the past, including twice during George W. Bush’s administration.

Earlier this year, Republicans allowed a temporary unemployment measure to pass without even calling for a roll call vote.

Opinion polls show that deficits and debt are of increasing concern to voters, however, especially with Republicans’ core conservative supporters

and the tea party activists whose support they’re courting in hopes of retaking control of Congress.

Democrats countered that many economists say unemployment benefits boost the economy since most beneficiaries spend them immediately, injecting money into the economy. But any such effects are likely to be modest when measured against a \$14.6 trillion economy.

“Unemployment benefits protect those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own but would lead to more jobs, higher wages, and a stronger economy for all Americans,” countered the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat. “The money will be spent immediately on necessity, injecting demand into the economy, creating jobs.” □

Fired employee gets No. 1 ‘I’m sorry’ from Obama

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flooded with apologies from everywhere, Shirley Sherrod got the biggest “I’m sorry” of all ON Thursday from a contrite President Barack Obama, who personally appealed to the ousted Agriculture Department worker to come back. Sherrod, who was forced to resign on Monday because of racial comments she made at a civil rights group’s gathering, was asked by Obama to rejoin the federal government and transform “this misfortune” into a chance to use her life experiences to help people, said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs. Obama had stayed out of the public brouhaha that followed Sherrod’s ouster from the Agriculture Department after a conservative blogger posted a truncated clip of the black woman’s comments and portrayed her as racist. Once it became clear that the speech in question was advocating racial reconciliation, not racism, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack apologized to her and offered her a new job Wednesday. Gibbs also apologized publicly “for the entire administration.” Thursday morning, Obama



In a photo made from video provided by CBSNews.com, former USDA official Shirley Sherrod is interviewed Thursday, July 22, 2010 on “The Early Show”. President Barack Obama on Thursday apologized to Sherrod over her ouster in the midst of a racially tinged firestorm that ensnared the White House, Agriculture Department, NAACP and a blogger.

Associated Press

spoke by phone with Sherrod and said he hoped she would accept Agriculture’s offer of a new position, Gibbs said. He added that Obama thought Sherrod was “very gracious.” Sherrod said she had not decided whether to accept the invitation to return, but she did accept the apologies.

In an excerpt of an ABC News interview broadcast Thursday, Obama said Vilsack was too quick to seek Sherrod’s dismissal. “He jumped the gun, partly because we now live in this media culture where something goes up on YouTube or a blog and everybody scrambles,” Obama

said.

The president said he has instructed “my team” to make sure “that we’re focusing on doing the right thing instead of what looks to be politically necessary at that very moment. We have to take our time and think these issues through.”

As top government officials begged for her forgiveness, Sherrod did not shy away from telling her story on television. She hopped from network to network, even chatting with the ladies of ABC’s “The View” and letting CNN film part of her call with Obama as she traveled the streets of New York City in a car. □

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Judge hears arguments over Arizona immigration law

JACQUES BILLEAUD
PAUL DAVENPORT

Associated Press Writers

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona immigration law came under new legal scrutiny in a packed courtroom Thursday as a federal judge considered whether the crackdown should take effect next week amid a flurry of legal challenges.

Judge Susan Bolton did not issue a ruling after two court hearings stemming from lawsuits brought against the law, which has reignited the U.S. immigration debate.

The hearings drew considerable interest as Republican Gov. Jan Brewer and the federal Justice Department's top lawyer in Arizona both attended, along with dozens of spectators.

Several opponents of the law were arrested after they sat in the middle of a busy thoroughfare outside the courthouse and unfurled a massive banner that said "We will not comply."

Bolton has been asked to block the law from taking effect as she hears several lawsuits that question the constitutionality of the measure.

Opponents say the law will lead to racial profiling and trample on the rights of the hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants in Arizona. Supporters say the law is a necessary response to combat the litany of problems brought on by illegal immigration and the federal government's inability to secure the border.

Bolton, an appointee of former President Bill Clinton, repeatedly questioned Justice Department attorney Edwin Kneedler to explain how specific provisions of the law intruded on federal authority as he had argued.

"Why can't Arizona be as inhospitable as they wish to people who have entered the United States illegally?" she said.

Without prodding from attorneys, the judge also pointed out to lawyers the everyday realities of Arizona's immigration woes, such as signs that the federal government erected in a wilderness area south of

Phoenix that warns visitors about drug and immigrant traffickers passing through public lands.

She also noted the immigrant smuggling stash houses that are a fixture on the news in Arizona. "You can barely go a day without a location being found in Phoenix where there are numerous people being harbored," Bolton said.

Kneedler said the law's requirements that law enforcement check on people's immigration status set a mandatory policy that goes beyond what the federal government requires and would burden the federal agency that responds to immigration-status inquiries. Attorney John Bouma, who represents Brewer, said the federal government wants to keep its authority while turning a blind eye to illegal immigrants.

"You can't catch them if you don't know about them. They don't want to know about them," he said.

Brewer said she's confident the state will prevail, adding that Bolton "certainly understands the dangers that Arizonans face in regards to harboring illegals."

During the morning hearing, Bolton told lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union that she's required to consider blocking only parts of the law, not the entire statute as they had requested.

ACLU attorney Omar Jadwat said the law's provisions are supposed to work together to achieve a goal of prodding illegal immigrants to leave the state. He called it unconstitutional and dangerous.

Most of the controversy about the law centers on provisions related to stops and arrests of people, new crimes related to illegal immigrants, and a requirement that immigrants carry and produce their immigration papers.

Other parts of the law getting little attention deal with impoundment of vehicles and sanctions against employment of illegal immigrants.

Bouma told Bolton that those

challenging the law haven't demonstrated that anyone would suffer actual harm if it takes effect, and that facts — not conjecture — must be shown.

"In Arizona we have a tremendous Hispanic heritage. To think that everybody that's Hispanic is going to be stopped and questioned ... defies reality," Bouma said. "All this hypothetical that we're going to go out and arrest everybody that's Hispanic, look around. That's impossible."

Defendants include various county officials from throughout the state, most of whom sent lawyers to the hearing. Cochise County Sheriff Larry Dever was there in person, sitting at the front of the courtroom.

Dever's county is on the Arizona-Mexico border and he knew a rancher who was killed in March on his sprawling border property by a suspected illegal immigrant, possibly a scout for drug smugglers.

The killing of Robert Krentz in many ways set the stage for the new Arizona law to pass, with politicians calling for action amid border violence.

Before the hearings, opponents gathered in prayer and carried paper doves attached to plants representing olive branches, a symbol of peace.

The law requires officers, while enforcing other laws, to check a person's immigration status if there's a reasonable suspicion that the person is here illegally. It also bans people from blocking traffic when they seek or offer day-labor services on streets and prohibits illegal immigrants from soliciting work in public places.

Since Brewer signed the measure into law in April, it has inspired rallies in Arizona and elsewhere by advocates on both sides of the immigration debate. Some opponents have advocated a tourism boycott of Arizona.

It also led an unknown number of illegal immigrants to leave Arizona for other U.S. states or their home countries and prompted seven challenges by the Justice Department, civil



Jose Vargas, middle, a plaintiff in one of the SB1070 lawsuits, walks with a lawyer, Daniel Ortega, right, and Alessandra Soler Meetze, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, after a morning hearing regarding the SB1070 Arizona immigration law in front of U.S. District Court Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Phoenix. U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton is holding multiple hearings on whether the new Arizona immigration law should take effect on July 29.

Associated Press

rights groups, two Arizona group and a researcher from police officers, a Latino clergy Washington. □

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House panel charges Rangel with ethics misdeeds



Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y., answers questions from the media on Capitol Hill in Washington Thursday, July 22, 2010. A House investigative committee has charged Rangel, the former chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, with multiple ethics violations.

LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House investigative committee on Thursday charged New York Rep. Charles Rangel

with multiple ethics violations, dealing a serious blow to the former Ways and Means chairman and complicating Democrats' election-year outlook.

Associated Press

The panel did not immediately specify the charges against the Democrat, who has served in the House for some 40 years and is fourth in seniority. The charges by a four-member panel of the House ethics committee sends the case to a House trial, where a separate eight-member panel of Republicans and Democrats will decide whether the violations can be proved by clear and convincing evidence. The timing of the announcement ensures that a public airing of Rangel's ethical woes will stretch into the campaign for November's elections. Republicans are certain to make it an issue as they try to capture majority control of the House. Speaker Nancy Pelosi once promised to "drain the swamp" of ethical misdeeds by lawmakers in arguing that Democrats should be in charge of the Congress.

Responding to the charges, Rangel said in a statement, "I was notified today, two years after I requested an investigation, that the Ethics Committee will refer the allegations reviewed by an investigations subcommittee to a subcommittee that will review the facts. I am pleased that, at long last, sunshine will pierce the cloud of serious allegations that have been raised against me in the media."

Pelosi spokesman Brendan Daly said, "The action today would indicate that the independent, bipartisan ethics committee process is moving forward."

Republicans immediately seized on the case. The party's leader in the House, Rep. John Boehner, referred to Pelosi's "drain the swamp" promise and said the charges were

"a sad reminder of Speaker Pelosi's most glaring broken promise."

Rangel led the tax-writing Ways and Means panel until he stepped aside last March after the ethics committee criticized him in a separate case — finding that he should have known corporate money was paying for his trips to two Caribbean conferences.

Officials said that in the current case, the committee and Rangel's attorney tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a settlement. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private discussions. A settlement would have required Rangel to agree that he violated ethics rules.

The Democrats currently hold 255 seats in the 435-seat House, with Republicans holding 178 and two seats vacant. □



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Senate Democrats abandon comprehensive energy bill

MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats on Thursday gave up plans to attempt to pass an energy bill that caps greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, abandoning a priority of President Barack Obama.

He had hoped to add such a bill to the two biggest legislative successes of his presidency, a comprehensive health care bill and a broad reform of the U.S. banking and financial sector.

The failure to pass energy legislation also is expected to weaken the U.S. negotiating position heading into international climate negotiations in Mexico at the end of the year. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said no Republican was willing to back a comprehensive energy bill, which he called "terribly disappointing."

Democrats have been trying for more than a year to pass a plan that would charge power plants, manufacturers and other large polluters for their heat-trapping carbon emissions, which contribute to global warming.

The House of Representatives voted 219-212 last year for a "cap and trade" plan featuring economic incentives to reduce carbon emissions from power plants, vehicles and other sources. Republicans slammed the bill as a "national energy tax" and killer of jobs, arguing that the costs would be passed to consumers as higher electricity bills and fuel costs that would lead manufacturers to take their factories overseas. Moderate House Democrats who voted for the bill, particularly freshmen from Republican-leaning districts, are among the Republicans' takeover targets in November's congressional elections. □

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Authorities seek cause of deadly Calif. bus crash

GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, California

(AP) — Authorities were investigating the cause of a deadly crash Thursday that killed six people, including two Mexican tourists, and seriously injured nine others when a Greyhound bus slammed into an overturned SUV.

The bus, carrying 31 passengers on a route from Los Angeles to Sacramento, struck the SUV in front of it, skidded into a concrete center divider and clipped another vehicle shortly after 2 a.m. a few miles (kilometers) from downtown Fresno, California Highway Patrol chief Jim Abrames said.

The bus went off the right shoulder of the highway and down a 15-foot (4.5-meter) embankment before hitting a eucalyptus tree and coming to rest on a freeway off-ramp with its front end smashed and tree branches jutting into the vehicle.

Authorities were inspecting mangled pieces of metal, broken glass and torn clothing scattered around the wreckage in search of clues about the crash. They also intended to examine data recorded onboard the bus.

It could take months, however, before a final report is completed, Abrames said. Arlan Snider, who was traveling from Phoenix to Sacramento to visit his mother, said he was asleep in the middle section of the bus when the crash occurred. He awoke to the smell of smoke and injured passengers around him.

"I woke up on the floor of the bus and started helping people

off the bus," Snider, 41, who escaped uninjured, said after arriving at Sacramento's bus terminal.

The six dead people included four women and two men. Three of the women had been traveling in the dark-blue SUV that had overturned and blocked both lanes, said Abrames, who heads the CHP's Central California division.

Twenty-one people were rushed to hospitals for treatment, and nine had moderate to critical injuries. The bus driver was identified as James Jewett, 57, of Sacramento. He died instantly of massive injuries, said Fresno County Coroner Dr. David Hadden.

"The front of the bus was destroyed and the front part of the bus was pushed into his driver's seat," Hadden said.

The three women who died in the SUV were identified as Stephenie Cordoba, 20, and Vanessa Gonzalez, 19, both of Fresno, and Sylvia Lopez Garay, 18, of nearby Dinuba. Officials did not say who was driving.

The passengers who died on the bus were identified as Epifania Solis, 60, of Madera, and Tomas Ponce, 79, of Mexico. Ponce and his wife, Sinforosa Ponce, 77, were heading to Merced to visit relatives. She was hospitalized with multiple injuries, the coroner said.

The Chevy Trailblazer that overturned in the fast lane also landed at the bottom of the embankment, its roof partially caved in and doors crushed.

Hadden said his office planned toxicology reports



A CHP officer investigates a Greyhound Bus crash on Highway 99 that killed at least 6 people and injured many Thursday, July 22, 2010 in Fresno, Calif.

Associated Press

on the drivers of the bus and SUV, with results expected in about a week. There were no obvious signs that anyone had been drinking, such as bottles in the vehicles, he said.

The bus departed Los Angeles late Wednesday and stopped in Fresno before continuing on its route to Sacramento with 35 passengers on board, according to Greyhound officials. It was on its way to Madera for one of about eight scheduled stops when the crash occurred.

Buses operated by Greyhound Lines Inc. have been involved in 139 accidents nationwide over the past two years that included fatalities, injuries or vehicles that had to be towed, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

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The Development Driller II, right, and Development Driller III, which are drilling the relief wells, are seen at the Deepwater Horizon oil spill site in the Gulf of Mexico, off the Louisiana coast, Thursday, July 22, 2010.

TROPICAL STORM

Continued from Front Page

A broken oil well has spewed somewhere between 94 million and 184 million gallons into the Gulf before a cap could be attached. The crisis — the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history — unfolded after the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers. Some experts worry the

hurricane season could worsen environmental damage from the spill, with powerful winds and large waves pushing oil deeper into estuaries and wetlands and also depositing more of the pungent, sticky mess on beaches.

As the storm advanced Thursday, skies darkened and people stocked up on water and food in the southern Bahamas and Turks

and Caicos, island chains that are well-accustomed to rough weather. Many businesses remained open, but schools were already closed for the summer.

Shannelle Lightbourne, 27, shopped at a market in the island of Providenciales in Turks and Caicos after hearing warnings that it would rain heavily.

“I am stocking up what I can,” she said. “I may not be able to leave my house.” Donna Musgrove, a businesswoman in Providenciales, said some streets were flooded. “It’s raining from one end of the island to the other,” she said. “The skies are completely dark.”

The tropical depression did not pose a threat to tourist resorts in the islands.

Tourist Ezra Uzzel, 45, of North Carolina, said he would not cut short his two-week vacation in the Turks and Caicos.

“This if our third day, and if the reports are right, by the weekend we should have good weather again,” he said.

Residents in the southeastern Bahamas endured heavy rains and copious lightning, but no damages or injuries had been reported. Officials with the Emergency Operations Center said they would travel to the area with basic supplies as soon as the weather improved.

Julius Bonaby, 47, of Bahamas’ Crooked Island, said he went to the grocery store early Thursday and spent most of the day listening to radio weather reports with his wife and two children.

“There’s a lot of wind,” he said. “We’re hoping it’ll pass over.”

A tropical storm warning was issued for the central and northwestern Bahamas, for Florida’s east coast south of Golden Beach and

also along Florida’s west coast northward to Bonita Beach.

The system was expected bring heavy winds and rains to the Florida Keys in the next few days, but emergency officials said they were not planning any mandatory evacuations since they did not expect a major storm surge.

As a precaution, storm shelters will open for tourists and residents who live on boats or have special needs. In the Dominican Republic, where roughly 1,500 people were evacuated, rice fields were destroyed and 14 communities left isolated after bridges collapsed. A 14-year-old boy died in Puerto Rico on Sunday after drowning in a swollen river.

Haiti’s Department of Civil Protection reported minor flooding in the northern Artibonite region but no injuries or major damage. □

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World court says Kosovo's independence is legal

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press Writer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The United Nations' highest court ruled Thursday that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, dealing a blow to Serbia, which vowed never to accept its former province as a separate state and warned the ruling could embolden separatist movements around the world.

Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci hailed the ruling as a "historic victory" and "the best possible answer for the entire world," while Foreign Minister, Skender Hyseni, said outside the International Court of Justice: "my message to the government of Serbia is 'Come and talk to us.'"

A tiny patch of the Balkans with a population of 2 million, Kosovo declared independence in February 2008 after years of fruitless talks with Belgrade about its desire to break away. Issuing the nonbinding advisory

opinion, International Court of Justice President Hisashi Owada said international law contains "no ... prohibition of declarations of independence" and therefore Kosovo's declaration "did not violate general international law."

In the capital, Pristina, ethnic Albanians honked their horns and waved Kosovo and U.S. flags to celebrate the ruling.

"What happened today is the greatest joy for Kosovo since the declaration of independence," said ethnic Albanian Shpresa Gosalci. "It is something that has sealed our status forever."

Kosovo's independence has been accepted by 69 countries so far. U.N. diplomats say they expect the court's decision to spur recognition of Kosovo as an independent state. After more than 100 countries grant such recognition — more than half the 192 U.N. member states — a senior Western diplomat said it will in effect have achieved "full

statehood."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will forward the advisory opinion to the General Assembly "which had requested the court's advice and which will determine how to proceed on this matter," U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

"The secretary-general strongly encourages the parties to engage in a constructive dialogue," Nesirky told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York. "The secretary-general urges all sides to avoid any steps that could be seen as provocative and derail the dialogue."

Serbia's diplomatic campaign to prevent recognition of Kosovo has left the fledgling nation in limbo and cut off from international organizations and European Union membership. Serbia's stance is likely also hampering Kosovo's attempts to join the EU, as the bloc insists member states have friendly relations with their



Kosovo's Foreign Minister Skender Hyseni is seen in the Great Hall of Justice at the World Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, July 22, 2010. The United Nations' highest court said Thursday that Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia did not break international law. The nonbinding opinion set the stage for a renewed push by Kosovo for further international recognition of its independence.

Associated Press

neighbors.

In a statement, EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said the future of Serbia and Kosovo lies in the EU.

"Good neighborly relations, regional cooperation and dialogue are the foundations on which the EU is built," Ashton said. "The EU is

therefore ready to facilitate a process of dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade."

Kosovo had been under international administration for nearly a decade following a bloody 1998-99 war with Serbia, and thousands of NATO troops are still stationed there guarding a tense peace.

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Gaza tunnel smugglers cutting through Egypt's wall



In this Friday, Nov. 14, 2008 file photo, a Palestinian smuggler moves a goat through a tunnel from Egypt to the Gaza Strip under the border in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip. An Egyptian security official said Thursday, July 22, 2010 that the underground steel wall built by Egypt to stop smuggling under its border with Gaza has been breached hundreds of times.

Associated Press

KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
Associated Press Writer

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A Palestinian tunnel smuggler with a blowtorch sliced through an underground steel wall early Thursday, the latest of what officials say are hundreds of holes cut into the Egyptian barrier meant to stop smuggling of goods, cash and weapons to the blockaded, Hamas-run Gaza Strip. Smugglers say the wall was never a serious obstacle, and they are far more

worried about competition from consumer goods being brought to Gaza legally, now that Israel has eased its closure of the Palestinian territory.

Rare Associated Press Television News footage showed the smuggler breaching the wall.

"Look at what they call the best iron in the world," he said, his face covered by a black-and-white headscarf as he rested near the new opening. "We melt it like cheese." He refused to give his name for fear of

retribution from Egyptian authorities.

The wall is seen as Egypt's most ambitious attempt to stop smuggling through the hundreds of tunnels that run under its 9-mile-long border with Gaza, a Palestinian territory sealed by Israel and Egypt since the violent Hamas takeover in 2007.

The tunnels have been a lifeline for the Islamic militants, keeping them supplied with cash and weapons, while delivering consumer goods to Gaza's shops.

Since work on the wall began last year, smugglers have cut hundreds of holes into the barrier of side-by-side steel planks that plunge about 60 feet into the ground, said two Egyptian security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

The barrier is to stretch along six miles of the border, where the tunnels are concentrated, and is more than half complete. Smugglers have bragged in recent months that they are able to cut through the wall, but Thursday marked a rare occasion when they were filmed in action.

Before dawn, five tunnel workers walked about 200 yards from Gaza through a narrow underground passage just high enough for the men to stand until they reached the dead end of the steel barrier.

The smuggler with the blow torch later said it was the third time he cut through the

wall, and he expected the tunnel to resume operations within two days.

Smugglers have raised the possibility that Egypt would try flooding the passages with water, though Egyptian officials have not confirmed such a plan.

It may not be necessary.

Tunnel activity has slowed in recent weeks, as smugglers try to gauge the impact of Israel's easing of the blockade in the wake of a deadly raid of a blockade-busting flotilla bound for Gaza in late May. The killing of nine Turkish activists aboard one of the ships prompted an international outcry, and Israel came under growing pressure to open Gaza's borders.

Egypt also decided to ease its closure after the flotilla raid, opening its borders to restricted travel and limited humanitarian convoys. The move restored a link to the outside world for at least some of Gaza's 1.5 million Palestinians.

Under the old blockade rules, only basic food and medicine were allowed into Gaza. In a first step after the flotilla, Israel decided to let in most consumer goods but said Gazans would continue to be banned from travel and exporting for the time being. For now, several smugglers say they are scaling back business or importing those items still restricted by Israel, including cement, steel and other construction supplies. One tunnel owner, who would give only an alias, Abu Kamal, said he is only using one of two tunnels

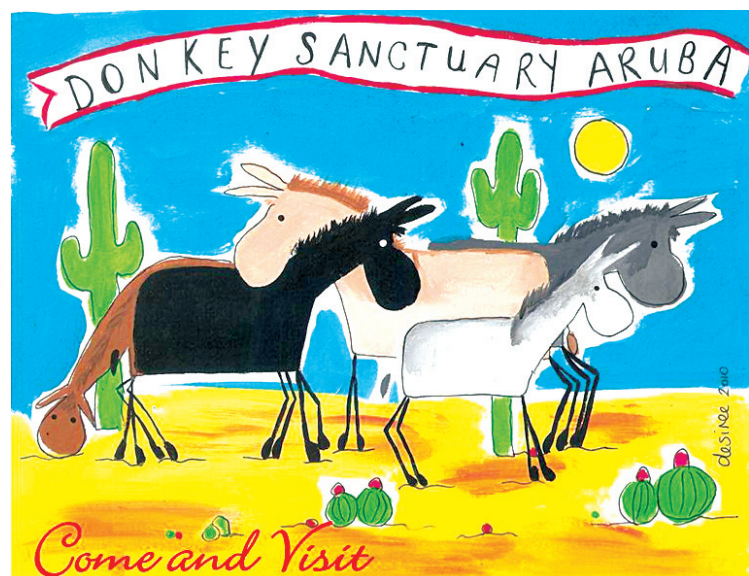
at the moment because of a drop in business. He said one of his tunnels was blocked by the wall, but he managed to cut through it. Another, Hassan Geshto, said it cost him only about \$400 to hire a crew to break through the steel wall when it blocked off his tunnel a month and a half ago. But he, too, has stopped working, because he says he can't profit enough from shipments to pay his workers.

"The metal wall has brought work for the blacksmiths of Gaza," he joked. "But to us, the wall means nothing. If they build it down to 40 meters, we will dig to 50 meters. But once Israel completely opens the crossings into Gaza, the tunnels will die alone."

Over the years, both Israel and Egypt have tried in vain to halt the smuggling.

During Israel's nearly four decades of military occupation of Gaza, Israeli soldiers frequently searched the Gaza-Egypt border area for tunnels, often razing homes to expose tunnel entrances. After Israel withdrew its settlers and soldiers from Gaza in 2005, Egypt came under growing pressure from Israel and the U.S. to halt the smuggling, particularly the flow of weapons to Hamas.

Egypt has adopted an often contradictory approach to Gaza. It has been trying to contain the Islamic militants on its doorstep, but it also wants to avoid blame in the Arab and Muslim world for cooperating with Israel in maintaining the blockade.



VENEZUELA - COLOMBIA
Continued from Front Page

Neither Chavez nor his OAS ambassador directly responded to the Colombian challenge to let people visit the alleged site of the camps.

In Washington, Hoyos said that roughly 1,500 rebels are hiding out in Venezuela and he showed fellow diplomats numerous aerial photographs of what he identified as rebel camps on Venezuelan territory.

Hoyos said that Colombian President Alvaro Uribe's government has repeatedly asked for Venezuela's cooperation to prevent guerrillas from slipping over the 1,400-mile border that separates the two countries. He insisted that several rebel leaders are hiding out in Venezuela.

"We have the right to demand that Venezuela doesn't hide those wanted by Colombia," Hoyos said, urging the OAS to investigate Colombia's claims.

OAS Secretary General Jose

Miguel Insulza told reporters after the four-hour session that his organization couldn't mount an inspection mission without Venezuela's consent. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro announced that Chavez's government had closed its embassy in Bogota and demanded that Colombia's ambassador in Caracas leave the country within 72 hours. Maduro said Colombia had forced Venezuela's hand, accusing Uribe of blatantly lying about the rebel presence in Venezuela.

Uribe "has put political and economic relations into a hole," Maduro said.

Venezuela is considering other possible measures to protest "Colombia's aggressions against our country," Maduro told state television without elaborating. He hinted the military might take steps to guarantee the sovereignty of Venezuela's airspace.

Chavez's envoy to the OAS, Roy Chaderton, said the photographs that Hoyos showed diplomats didn't

provide any solid evidence of a guerrilla presence in Venezuela.

Chavez suggested the photographs could be bogus, saying Uribe "is capable of anything."

The Venezuelan leader, a former paratrooper, contended Uribe could seek to spur an armed conflict with Venezuela before he leaves office next month.

"Uribe is even capable of setting up a fake camp in one of the jungles on the Venezuelan side to attack it, bomb it and bring about a war between Colombia and Venezuela," Chavez said.

The socialist leader has argued in the past that U.S. officials are using Colombia as part of a broader plan to portray him as a supporter of terrorist groups to provide justification for U.S. military intervention in Venezuela.

Chavez, who appeared alongside Argentine football star Diego Maradona, said the United States is using Colombia to undermine

Venezuela's efforts toward regional integration. He said he has doubts that Colombia's president-elect, Juan Manuel Santos, will stray from Uribe's U.S.-backed military policies. "Hopefully he'll understand that leftist and right-wing governments can live together," Chavez said of Santos.

During a visit to Mexico, Santos declined to comment on Venezuela's action, saying he felt it was best for the current government of Uribe to handle the situation.

Laura Gil, a political analyst and columnist for the Colombian newspaper El Tiempo, said she didn't expect the conflict to last very long because Chavez appeared to direct his comments at Uribe while raising the possibility that relations could be restored under Santos.

"Santos will have the opportunity to think about dialogue," she said.

Gil suggested Santos may be able to repair damage and "reach some type of



Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe gestures during a press conference at the presidential palace in Bogota, Thursday, June 24, 2010. Uribe spoke before traveling to participate in the G8 Summit in Canada, saying he will tell the leaders of the industrialized nations that Colombia is better off than it was several years ago but still needs the support of the international community.

Associated Press

Venezuelan cooperation" if he respectfully expresses Colombia's guerrilla-related concerns in private rather than making them public. □



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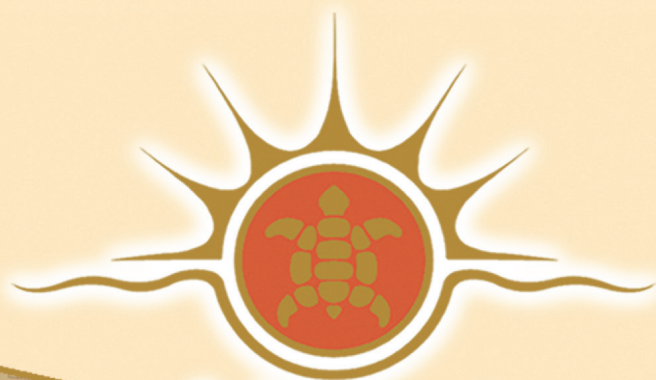
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Arcade Fire, John Legend to stream concerts live

By JAKE COYLE,
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK – Within hours of most any concert, shaky and distorted footage of the show can be found online from front row or the balcony.

But online concert video has been steadily building toward live streaming, digital quality video and accompanying social media interaction. “Unstaged,” a new online concert series being launched by American Express, and to stream on YouTube and Vevo, hopes to combine all of these elements.

Arcade Fire will kick off the series by live streaming the second of their much anticipated Aug. 4 and 5 concerts at Madison Square Garden. The concerts follow the Aug. 3 release of the band’s third album, “The Suburbs.”

“As soon as we booked it, it felt a little ominous,” Jeremy Gara, the band’s drummer, said of the MSG shows. “Playing there by itself is pretty exciting. Playing there twice seems pretty crazy, and then it’s our CD release and now this live broadcasting.

“Well, if we’re going to do it, do it big,” laughs Gara.

The concert will stream live Aug. 5 at 10 p.m. Eastern on the

Google Inc.-owned YouTube and Vevo, the music video site owned by Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and Abu Dhabi Media Co. It’s the first in a planned series of five live streamed concerts, with John Legend and the Roots to follow, and others to be announced later.

Courtney Kelso, vice president of sports and entertainment strategy at American Express, said the concerts won’t be “a passive, flat experience.”

“It is still a pretty nascent space,” Kelso said of live concerts online. “They’re kind of taking the television model to it — ‘I’ll just broadcast it, put it on the Web and someone will watch it.’ We think the power of the digital medium is such that you can interact in special ways.”

The series is planning interactive features like a choice of camera angles, one to be controlled by an as-yet-to-be-named director and another that a user can choose. Kelso said another option might be having viewers vote on song requests.

Glenn Brown, YouTube’s head of music partnerships, said the series was the video equivalent of the up-to-the-minute quality of Twitter.

“Witheverythingbeingreproducible



FILE - In this July 25, 2007 file photo, Edwin Farnham Butler III, right, singer of Canadian band Arcade Fire performs during the 32nd edition of the PaleoFestival in Nyon, Switzerland.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Salvatore Di Nolfi, file)

infinitely, being able to have that time-limited, unique experience is what’s really interesting here,” said Brown.

YouTube has previously streamed performances at San Francisco’s Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival and Tennessee’s Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. The largest Internet audience yet for a concert was YouTube’s streaming of a U2 show in October, which was watched live by nearly 10 million. American Express and YouTube earlier collaborated on an Alicia Keys concert in December. Vevo

was brought into the act for a stream in May of a National concert.

When YouTube streamed the Keys concert, it noticed a spike in viewership when Jay-Z made a surprise appearance. The resulting social media buzz led to more viewers, a lesson that will be applied to “Unstaged,” which promises more special guests at the concerts. “The series could expand to be much more than (five acts),” said David Kohl, executive vice president of sales and customer operations at Vevo. “It’s an ability for millions and millions of users and viewers to touch a live event.” □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks surge on upbeat earnings and forecasts

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks had their biggest rally in two weeks Thursday as earnings and economic reports reassured investors that the economy is continuing its recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 201 points after strong earnings from Caterpillar Inc., UPS Inc. and other companies revived investors' optimism about the recovery. A better than expected report on housing

and encouraging signs of growth in Europe added to the upbeat mood.

Investors who have been mostly selling on disappointing economic and earnings numbers had, at least for the moment, reasons to be buying. Caterpillar said its orders are growing and production will pick up in the second half of the year. UPS raised its outlook because of spending by businesses. Caterpillar's stock rose 2.1 percent, while UPS gained 5.9 percent.

Chris Hobart, founder of Hobart Financial Group in Charlotte, N.C. said the outlooks are especially important because if companies expect to grow, that might get them to ramp up hiring.

If improved outlooks lead to jobs growth, "then this can be better than a good quarter or good second half, (it can mean) we've got a good economy," Hobart said.

A report on the housing market, while still showing a slowdown, was reassuring



Specialist Glenn Carell, right, interacts with a trader on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, July 22, 2010. Stocks surged Thursday after another strong batch of earnings reports revived optimism about the economic recovery. Encouraging signs of growth in Europe added to the upbeat mood.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Bernanke says further easing hinges on jobs

By **Pedro Nicolaci da Costa**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The Federal Reserve may try to push borrowing costs even lower if the job market continues to languish, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said on Thursday, offering a hint of what might trigger additional monetary easing.

After three quarters of solid growth, the U.S. economy has been losing steam, with firms still reluctant to hire and the housing sector seemingly unable to exit a prolonged rut.

Bernanke's comments accompanied Labor Department data on Thursday showing new claims for state unemployment benefits spiked to 464,000 last week.

With fears of a "double-dip" recession mounting in recent weeks, Bernanke reassured lawmakers the Fed is prepared to take further steps if the situation worsens appreciably.

"We are ready and will act if the economy does not continue to improve, if we don't see the kind of improvements in the labor market that we are hoping for and expecting," Bernanke told the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee.

As he did before a Senate panel on Wednesday, Bernanke indicated the Fed does not expect the economy to stall, and therefore does not foresee any extra policy measures being needed.

Another top Fed official, New York Fed Bank President William Dudley, said on Thursday the U.S. economic recovery was "a bit bumpy," with growth that is "far less robust" than the U.S. central bank wanted. However, he added that a renewed recession was not likely.

Even with interest rates effectively at zero, Bernanke argued there is more the central bank can do if needed to spur growth.

One possibility would be to lower the rate it pays banks to park excess reserves at the Fed,

currently 0.25 percent. Asked by a legislator why the Fed continues to pay banks to keep their money idle despite weak lending conditions, Bernanke said cutting the rate carries risks.

"If rates go to zero there will be no incentive for buying and selling federal funds, overnight money in the banking system and if that market shuts down ... it'll be more difficult to manage short-term interest rates," Bernanke said.

Other options for the Fed include bolstering its stated commitment to keep official rates low for an "extended period," or purchase yet more debt, Bernanke said. In addition to slashing interest rates to rock-bottom levels, the Fed bought more than \$1.5 trillion in mortgage and Treasury securities in an effort to combat the deepest recession since the Great Depression.

On Wednesday, financial markets took a dive after Bernanke's plans for additional monetary stimulus appeared more remote and theoretical than investors had expected. But by Thursday traders had forgotten all about that, with U.S. stocks rallying sharply on robust earnings reports and better economic news out of Europe.

POLICY IN A TIME OF STRESS

Many analysts worry the Fed's policy arsenal is too depleted to be of any major additional benefit to the economy.

But Bernanke said under conditions of greater financial turmoil, the impact of its remaining policy options might be significant.

"If financial conditions become more stressed, as would happen presumably if the economy began to weaken, I think those steps would be more effective relatively speaking," he said.

With unemployment still hovering around 9.5 percent, one legislator accused Bernanke and the Fed of not doing enough to address the problem. □

because it wasn't as bad as investors expected. The National Association of Realtors said sales of previously occupied homes fell to an annual rate of 5.37 million in June from 5.66 million a month earlier. Economists forecast the sales rate to fall to 5.18 million. Traders largely wrote off a jump in the number of people seeking unemployment benefits for the first time. The increase was likely skewed by seasonal factors. Instead, investors focused on earnings from a broad range of companies that showed businesses aren't seeing a slowdown in the recovery. News of corporate deals also lifted shares. Meanwhile, European markets rose after a report showed unexpected growth in the 16-nation group that uses the euro. In recent months, investors worldwide have been concerned that rising government debt in Europe would stall a global recovery. A jump in Europe's purchasing managers index reported Thursday was a welcome relief after forecasts of a possible recession on the continent.

The economic reports out of

Europe were "a big surprise because everyone expects that to be the Achilles heel of the global economy," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at J.P. Morgan Private Wealth Management in New York.

It was problems in Europe that set off the big drop in stocks in late April. As Greece struggled to make debt payments and ratings agencies downgraded the government debt of several companies, stocks plunged in the U.S. on fears that the domestic recovery was in jeopardy. Stocks then fell further as U.S. economic reports showed that the recovery was at best bumpy. Some investors feared a "double dip," or the economy falling back into recession.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow rose 201.77, or 2 percent, to 10,322.30. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 24.08, or 2.3 percent, to 1,093.67, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 58.56, or 2.7 percent, to 2,245.89.

Only 397 stocks fell on the New York Stock Exchange, while 2,675 rose. Volume came to 1.2 billion shares. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

MLB begins testing for HGH in minor leagues

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball implemented random blood testing for human growth hormone in the minor leagues on Thursday, the first professional sports league in the United States to take the aggressive step against doping.

The blood testing becomes part of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program, which commissioner Bud Selig introduced in 2001 to test for performance-enhancing drugs.

“The implementation of blood testing in the minor leagues represents a significant step in the detection of the illegal use of human growth hormone,” Selig said in a statement. “HGH testing provides an example for all of our drug policies in the future.”

Testing will be limited to players with minor-league contracts because they are not members of the players’ association, which means blood testing is not subject to collective bargaining.

“Obviously, we make a separate decision with regard to the minor-league program, but the Major League Baseball Players Association has been proactively engaged in conversations with us on the scientific and logistical issues associated with blood testing at the major league level,” said MLB spokesman Rob Manfred.

The players association has long been against blood testing.

“The union’s position on HGH testing remains unchanged,”



Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig speaks during a news conference prior to All-Star festivities, Monday, July 12, 2010, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Top-seeded Andy Roddick battles heat to hold off Ram

GEORGE HENRY

Associated Press Writer

JOHNS CREEK, Georgia (AP) — Top-seeded Andy Roddick weathered high temperatures to beat Rajeev Ram 6-1, 6-7 (1), 6-3 in the second round of the Atlanta Tennis Championships on Thursday.

Roddick, who will face seventh-seed Xavier Malisse of Belgium in the quarterfinals, is aiming for his 20th career tournament title on hardcourts and third this year.

Malisse defeated Ukraine’s Illya Marchenko 6-3, 6-3.

Roddick improved his ATP tour-leading match record to 27-4 on hardcourts.

Roddick’s first career victory came against Malisse in 2001 at the Atlanta Athletic Club. That was the last time the Atlanta championships were held before the event returned this year.

Improving to 33-7 this



Andy Roddick returns a shot to Rajeev Ram during their men’s quarterfinals match during the Atlanta Tennis Championships Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Johns Creek, Ga.

Associated Press

year, Roddick showed some frustration by throwing his racket in the second set, but he finished the match having converted seven of eight break points.

No. 6-seeded Mardy Fish withdrew from doubles Thursday after twisting an ankle late in a second-round singles victory the night before over Robby Ginepri. □

union executive director Michael Weiner said. “When a test is available that is scientifically validated and can be administered safely and without interfering with the players’ ability to compete, it will be considered.

“We have been engaged with the Commissioners’ Office on this subject for several months, though they have not shared with us the specifics behind their decision to begin blood testing of minor leaguers.”

Outside experts have long questioned the union’s logic against blood testing. Told of baseball’s announcement, Gary Wadler, who chairs the committee that determines the World Anti-Doping Agency’s banned-substances list, said it was “a significant step forward.”

“One important thing is, as young players evolve through the minor leagues, the concept of a blood test will no longer be alien to them,” Wadler said. “It will be easier to implement it in the major leagues as more players in the minor leagues recognize it makes sense.” Travis Tygart, the CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, also welcomed the news.

“This is another important step in the fight to return all of the playing fields in the U.S. to clean athletes,” he said.

Tigers president Dave Dombrowski said in an e-mail to The Associated Press: “Seems like a positive step for the game.”

Dodgers manager Joe Torre said: “Whatever has to be done to gain the full trust of the fans, we have to do what we can.”

Blood samples will be collected after games by the National Center for Drug Free Sport, the organization that currently collects urine samples in the minor leagues. The blood samples will be taken from the non-dominant arm of players who are not members of a major league team’s 40-man roster, and sent to a testing laboratory in Salt Lake City for analysis.

Dr. Gary Green, the medical director for Major League Baseball, described the testing as “a major development in the detection of a substance that has previously been undetectable.” □

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AL Roundup

Yankees power ahead early, beat Angels

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Teixeira and Robinson Cano supplied the early runs as the New York Yankees beat the Los Angeles Angels 10-6 in the American League on Wednesday. Teixeira doubled twice and drove in three runs, and Cano hit a two-run shot as New York ended a seven-game winning streak by Angels pitcher Joel Pineiro.

Pineiro (10-7) was 7-0 with a 2.51 ERA in his previous eight starts, but 10 of his first 21 batters got hits as the Yankees built a 6-0 lead. Pitching on 10 days' rest, New York's Javier Vazquez (8-7) nearly squandered a six-run cushion, withering quickly in the hot conditions but he hung on long enough for his 150th career win, and to become the third active pitcher to beat all 30 major league teams.

Tigers 4, Rangers 1

In Detroit, Max Scherzer threw seven scoreless innings to guide Detroit to a win over Texas that snapped a seven-game losing skid.

Scherzer (7-7) threw a career-high 123 pitches.

Gerald Laird hit a two-run homer for the Tigers.

Colby Lewis (9-6) allowed four runs over seven innings for the AL West-leading Rangers, who lost their first game in four.

Detroit stranded eight runners and Texas left six on base.

In Oakland, Matt Watson hit his first career homer and Jack Cust added a two-run shot that helped Oakland defeat Boston and win its third straight series.

Gio Gonzalez (9-6) pitched six innings and Rajai Davis hit a two-run single for the A's, who have won seven of eight to move above .500 for the first time since June 11.

The Red Sox dropped seven games behind AL East leader New York. Starter Clay Buchholz (10-5) was not sharp in his first start since injuring a hamstring running bases on June 26. He allowed five runs in four-plus innings.

Twins 6, Indians 0

In Minneapolis, Francisco Liriano worked out of trouble while throwing seven effective innings as Minnesota salvaged the final game of a frustrating series, snapping Cleveland's six-game winning streak.

Liriano (8-7) allowed 10 baserunners but stayed poised, and benefited from three double plays. He struck out eight, including Carlos Santana with runners at the corners to finish the third inning.

Indians starter Jake Westbrook (6-6) allowed

four runs in six innings, walking five and striking out only one.

In Kansas City, Zack Greinke won for the fifth time in six decisions as Kansas City downed Toronto.

Greinke (6-9), the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner, allowed two runs in eight innings, striking out nine without a walk. He improved to 5-1 with a 2.89 ERA in his past seven starts, a stretch that includes 47 strikeouts and just eight walks.

Greinke yielded three singles for a run in the seventh, but pitched out of further trouble by getting Edwin Encarnacion to ground into an inning-ending double play.

Seldom-used catcher Brayan Pena had a career-high three hits for the Royals.

Toronto starter Marc Rzepczynski (0-1) allowed five runs in 4 2-3 innings.

In Seattle, Franklin Gutierrez's two-run single off Chicago closer Bobby Jenks in the bottom of the 11th inning gave Seattle victory.

Jenks' second last-inning meltdown in four days trimmed Chicago's lead over Minnesota and Detroit to 2½ games in the AL Central.

The game was scoreless until the White Sox went ahead in the top of the 11th.

But Jenks (1-3) allowed a bunt single up the first-base line by Jack Wilson leading off the bottom of the inning. Ichiro Suzuki sacrificed him to second. Wilson advanced to third on a single by Chone Figgins, who stole second to put the potential winning run in scoring position. Gutierrez singled to center for Seattle's first runs in 27 innings.

Rays 5, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Evan Longoria homered, drove in two runs and scored twice as Tampa Bay recovered from blowing a four-run lead and edged Baltimore.

The Rays improved their major league-leading road record to 31-17. Tampa Bay is 5-1 at Camden Yards.

Rays starter James Shields (8-9) got the win, despite allowing four runs in 6 1-3 innings. Rafael Soriano worked the ninth for his 24th save in 26 tries.

The Orioles stranded six and went 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

In other AL games it was Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 4; N.Y. Yankees 10, L.A. Angels 6; Minnesota 6, Cleveland 0; Kansas City 5, Toronto 2; Oakland 6, Boston 4; Detroit 4, Texas 1; and Seattle 2, Chicago White Sox 1, 11 innings. □



New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira, left, congratulates Robinson Cano after Cano hit a two-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

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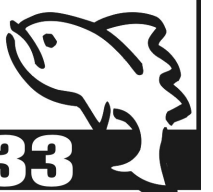
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NL Roundup

Pods fight back to beat Braves in 12

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta reliever Billy Wagner blew a two-run lead in the ninth inning, before Nick Hundley's two-run double in the 12th lifted San Diego to a 6-4 victory in Wednesday's matchup of National League division leaders.

Chris Denorfia led off the 12th with a single off Kris Medlen (6-2), Atlanta's seventh pitcher. Denorfia stole second base as Tony Gwynn Jr. struck out for the second out. An intentional walk to Oscar Salazar put runners on first and second for Hundley, who pinch hit for Tim Stauffer (3-1).

Hundley's double down the left-field line made it 6-4. Heath Bell earned his 27th save with three strikeouts in the bottom of the 12th to end a game that lasted 4 hours, 13 minutes.

It was the fourth blown save for Wagner, who couldn't hold a 4-2 lead in the ninth. The Padres rallied with Scott Hairston's pinch-hit homer, a single by Jerry Hairston and Yorvit Torrealba's tying

double.

The Braves led 4-2 after Brian McCann's two-run homer capped a four-run third inning.

In Los Angeles, Chad Billingsley pitched a shutout of San Francisco to give Los Angeles its first win in seven games.

Billingsley (8-5) threw 125 pitches to earn his second career shutout and third complete game.

Casey Blake homered in the second inning to end the Dodgers season-worst losing skid.

San Francisco starter Barry Zito (8-5) gave up six hits in 7 1-3 innings.

In St. Louis, rookie Jaime Garcia stymied Philadelphia for seven innings as St. Louis made it eight straight wins.

Garcia (9-4) lowered his ERA to 2.21, rebounding from two iffy starts in which he gave up 17 hits in 5 2-3 innings, although he gave up only four earned runs.

Matt Holliday's homer leading off the bottom of the seventh was the go-ahead hit for the

NL Central leaders, whose streak is the franchise's best since winning eight straight in 2004.

St. Louis beat the two-time defending NL champions three straight games by a 20-6 total.

The Phillies have lost six of seven since the All-Star break and are only two games above .500. Starter Joe Blanton (3-6) gave up three runs in the eighth.

In Miami, Gaby Sanchez hit a three-run homer to lift Florida over Colorado.

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (10-7) pitched eight innings, allowing four hits while striking out eight. He has 10 wins each of the past three seasons.

Rockies starter Jason Hammel (7-5) fell to 0-3 against the Marlins in his career as he allowed five runs in seven innings.

In Cincinnati, Stephen Strasburg tamed the NL's top offense as Washington downed Cincinnati.

A day after he turned 22, Strasburg (5-2) pitched beyond his years again, passing one of his toughest tests, while getting some belated run support.

Strasburg struck out seven and gave up three runs in 5 1-3 innings, outdueling Bronson Arroyo (10-5), who had allowed only three runs in his past three starts, winning them all.

Arroyo went 5 2-3 innings, allowing seven runs.

Diamondbacks 4, Mets 3, 14 innings

In Phoenix, a pinch-hit RBI single in the 14th inning by Chris Snyder gave the Arizona a three-game sweep of fading New York.

Snyder, the last position player available for Arizona,



Diego Padres' Nick Hundley, left, hits the go-ahead two-run double against the Atlanta Braves during the 12th inning of a baseball game in Atlanta, Wednesday July 21, 2010. San Diego won 6-4.

Associated Press

hit a pitch from Fernando Nieve (2-4) over the head of the left fielder to bring home Justin Upton, who had led off the inning with a double.

The Mets fell to 1-6 on their 10-game Western trip and remained 6½ games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East. They finish the trip with three games against the Dodgers in Los Angeles starting Friday.

Five Arizona relievers shut out New York on one hit over the last eight innings. Blaine Boyer (2-2) was perfect over the final two, striking out two, to get the victory.

Astros 4, Cubs 3, 12 innings
In Chicago, pinch-hitter Jason Michaels delivered a two-out, two-run double in the top of the 12th inning to give Houston victory over Chicago.

Jeff Keppinger and Chris Johnson started the 12th with consecutive singles. After Keppinger was forced out at third when Jason Castro bunted back to Bob Howry (1-3), James Russell relieved and Michael Bourn's grounder moved the runners to second and third.

Michaels hit Jeff Stevens, the seventh Chicago reliever, with

a drive into the alley in left-center. Angel Sanchez then singled in Michaels to make it 4-1.

In the bottom of the 12th, Geovany Soto connected for a two-out, two-run homer off Gustavo Chacin in the bottom half, pulling the Cubs within one. Ryan Theriot singled and pinch-hitter Jeff Baker walked before Tyler Colvin lined out to right, giving Chacin his first career save.

Chicago stranded 16 runners. Brandon Lyon (6-4) pitched two scoreless innings to get the win.

Pirates 15, Brewers 3

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez hit two home runs for the second consecutive game for Pittsburgh, which routed Milwaukee.

The Pirates' rookie hit a two-run homer to center in the fifth and a solo shot off the right-field pole in the eighth.

Randy Wolf (7-9) allowed a career-worst 12 runs in 5 2-3 innings. It was the third time in four games that a Brewers starter had given up more than 10 runs.

Pittsburgh starter Zach Duke (4-9) allowed two earned runs in six-plus innings.

In other NL games it was Houston 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 12 innings; Pittsburgh 15, Milwaukee 3; Florida 5, Colorado 2; San Diego 6, Atlanta 4, 12 innings; Washington 8, Cincinnati 5; St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 1; Arizona 4, N.Y. Mets 3, 14 innings; and L.A. Dodgers 2, San Francisco 0. □



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Schleck wins 17th stage but Contador set for title

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

COL DU TOURMALET, France (AP) — Defending champion Alberto Contador of Spain virtually secured a third Tour de France title Thursday after staying with yellow-jersey rival Andy Schleck all the way to the top of the legendary Col du Tourmalet in the pivotal 17th stage.

Schleck won the prestigious stage but Contador crossed the line nearly shoulder to shoulder with the Luxembourg rider after the pair had broken clear in the final six miles. Contador appeared completely at ease as he followed Schleck up the final climb, even moving in front of his rival at one point. He didn't seem to worry too much about trying to cross the line first.

Contador retained his eight-second lead in the overall standings and looks destined to ride into Paris on Sunday for the ceremonial final stage as the winner.

Schleck knew he needed to pick up time on Contador in the last stage in the Pyrenees but could not break the Spaniard. They completed the (108.1 miles from Pau to the peak of the Col du Tourmalet in 5 hours, 3 minutes, 29 seconds.

"I still have to reach Paris, and it won't be easy," Contador said. "But the most important thing for me today was that I didn't lose time."

Third place went to Spain's Joaquin Rodriguez, who pulled away from the rest of the chasing group and finished on his own, 1 minute, 18 seconds back.

Time gaps are still expected to change in Saturday's time trial, but that is Contador's specialty. Schleck had acknowledged before Thursday's stage that he would need to pick up at least a minute on Contador if he was to have a chance of winning the Tour.

Although he changed his tune Thursday evening and insisted he still had a chance, Schleck was also looking to the future.

"I've got everything that it takes, I've got the best skills to win the Tour. Maybe next year, maybe two years, but I

want to win it, that's for sure," he said.

Schleck and Contador braved fog and rain, as well as the flags of supporters hitting them in the face during the climb.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy was on the top of the mountain to greet them.

"The image of Alberto and Andy side by side was a great image of sport," Sarkozy said. "Alberto may win, but Andy will win next year."

Earlier, 2008 champion Carlos Sastre made a valiant attempt to make up more than nine minutes separating him from Contador by breaking out alone in search of the lead group after 15 miles, aided by his teammate Ignatas Konovalovas, who had dropped back from the leaders.

But he wasn't able to bridge the gap, and was caught by the peloton just before the start of the Tourmalet. Sastre later slipped further back.

Anthony Charteau of France finished in 27th place having done enough to guarantee he would be the overall winner



Stage winner Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, right, hugs Alberto Contador of Spain, left, after they crossed the finish line to win the 17th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 108.1 miles with start in Pau and finish on Tourmalet pass, Pyrenees region, France, Thursday, July 22, 2010

Associated Press

of the King of the Mountains' polka-dot jersey for the Tour's best climber.

In a lighter moment on the second climb of the day, the Col du Soudor, the peloton was briefly disrupted by a group of sheep which crossed the road just as the riders arrived. No rider fell but several were

forced to brake hard and stop.

The Pyrenees are behind the riders now, and after four days of struggling at the back over the climbs, the specialist sprinters are likely to fight out the win in Friday's 18th stage, a 123-mile virtually flat ride from Salies-de-Bearn to Bordeaux.

Thor Hushovd of Norway holds the green jersey of points leader ahead of Italy's Alessandro Pettachi, with Mark Cavendish of Britain also in the hunt for the stage win and hoping for the green jersey when the riders reach Paris. The Tour finishes in Paris on Sunday. □

Pressel, Reid, Ahn share Evian Masters lead

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — Morgan Pressel and Melissa Reid were joined at the top of the first-round leaderboard at the Evian Masters on Thursday as Ahn Sun-ju of South Korea birdied the last hole for a 6-under 66.

Pressel started the first round with birdies on the opening three holes, but the American also bogeyed the 13th.

"It was a very solid day. The only fairway I missed was on the last hole, and it was because it kind of got a weird bounce," Pressel said. "I hit 15 greens. I felt like I was striking the ball well and gave myself a lot of chances."

Pressel was pleased with the way the Evian Masters course played evenly, despite the poor weather conditions.

"I thought it was good. The weather was a bit cooler and cloudy, some rain on the back nine," she said.

Reid had two bogeys, but the English player sank a birdie putt on the final hole — her eighth of the day — to stay in contention.

"I hit the fairways, hit the greens, hit my zones I wanted to hit, and then just rolled in a few good putts," Reid said. "I've been working quite closely on my putting, because (my coach) thinks that's a weakness in my game. So we've changed the posture a little bit, and I seem to be rolling the ball a lot nicer this week."

The 22-year-old Reid won her first professional title in May at the Turkish Airlines Ladies Open, and hopes for another strong showing against a tougher field at the Evian Masters.

"You play an event like this and you see how you compare against the big girls," she said. "So it was quite nice to shoot 66 today. I proved to myself that I can do it."



Paula Creamer of USA reacts as she plays on the sixteenth hole during the first round of the Evian Masters women's golf tournament in Evian, eastern France, Thursday, July 22, 2010.

Associated Press

South Koreans Kim Song-hee and M.J. Hur were both a stroke behind the leaders.

Michelle Wie was tied for sixth with a group of other players at 4 under, while defending champion Ai Miyazato of Japan was three shots behind the leaders after a 3-under 69.

Wie, who recovered from heat exhaustion during the pro-am event on Wednesday, was pleased with her round, even though she felt "a little tired." □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Oliver wins 110m hurdles but no world record

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — David Oliver won the 110-meter hurdles in a failed attempt at the world record while fellow American Tyson Gay matched the season's second best time of 19.72 seconds in winning the 200 at the Monaco Diamond League meeting on Thursday.

Oliver, on a newly refurbished track and with a slight tail wind, topped the meet record in 13.01.

The Olympic bronze medalist won ahead of fellow American Ryan Wilson, who finished in 13.13. Jamaican Dwight Thomas was third in 13.29. "I ran well under pressure," said Oliver. "Every time I race now people expect the world record to be beaten."

Last week in Paris, Oliver clocked 12.89, just 0.02 short of Dayron Robles' world record. "Tonight I beat the stadium record and I'm happy with that," said Oliver, who didn't face much competition after Robles pulled out of the meet because of leg pains. The two men are not expected to go head-to-head before the London meet on Aug. 14.

"I'm a winner and I am always looking to improve myself and to see my name at the top of the list," Oliver said. "I want to be a champion."

Gay, who headlined the sprints in Monaco in the absence of world record-



U.S. athlete David Oliver competes to win the Men's 110m hurdles race at the Herculis International Athletics Meeting, at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco, Thursday, July 22, 2010.

Associated Press

holder Usain Bolt, got off to a strong start and held off Jamaican Yohan Blake's surge in the closing meters to set a new meet record.

Blake was second in 19.78, and American Wallace Spearmon third in 19.93.

"The problems I had earlier this season are now behind me," said Gay, who had been sidelined with a hamstring injury then bounced back with a win over Asafa Powell in the 100 at Gateshead this month.

"The new track in Monaco is super fast, this result is a combination of the track and my speed," Gay said. "I'm very tired now."

On a warm, damp evening marked by seven new world leading performances this season, also winners were American Carmelita Jeter

in the 100 meters, Jermaine Gonzalez of Jamaica at 400, Kenyan Silas Kiplagat at 1,500, Alysia Johnson of the United States at 800 and American Dwight Phillips in the long jump.

Jeter improved her personal best this season to win in 10.82 seconds, ahead of Jamaican Veronica Campbell-Brown, who finished second in 10.98.

Campbell-Brown was returning to competition for the first time since the Eugene, Oregon meet on July 3, where she set the fastest time this year in 10.78 ahead of third-placed Jeter.

"I'm very satisfied with the way the race went," said Jeter, who also won in Lausanne and Gateshead. "When I race the way I

did tonight and execute my technique as I should, no one can beat me."

Gonzalez ran the fastest 400 this year in 44.40, beating fellow Jamaican Ricardo Chambers and Christopher Brown of the Bahamas.

Gonzalez beat the previous season best of 44.49 set by American Jeremy Wariner in Paris, where the Jamaican had to be content with second place.

American men swept the 400 hurdles, with Bershawn Jackson winning in 47.78 seconds despite a late charge from Angelo Taylor, who finished second just 0.01 behind. Justin Garmin was third in 48.65.

"I knew I could beat Taylor but I did not expect him to start that fast," Jackson said.

Jamaican Kaliese Spencer won the women's race in 53.63 ahead of Natalya Antyukh of Russia and American Sheena Tosta.

World silver medalist Lashinda Demus of the United States, who was looking for her fourth Diamond League victory, took an excellent start and looked set for an easy win before she stuttered on the last hurdle and ended fourth in 54.54.

"I don't know what happened on that last hurdle," said Demus. "I guess I was going so fast that I messed up."

The 20-year-old unheralded Kiplagat upset race favorite Augustine Choge to win the 1,500 and establish a best world mark this season in 3:29.27, the 10th best time ever in the event.

Kiplagat shattered his personal record of 3:34.28 by more than five seconds. "I knew I was in a great shape, I knew I could run fast," said Kiplagat. "The race was perfect! The pacemakers did a great job and the weather conditions were perfect."

Amine Laalou of Morocco was second in 3:29.53, and Choge third in 3:30.22.

World champion Yargelis Savigne won the triple jump with a mark of 15.09 meters, setting a new season's best.

Phillips posted the longest jump this year at 8.46.

"I've been injured (leg) in the past month and felt it on the third jump, which made me afraid to give it all," Phillips said. "I know that I can do much better."

The Diamond League series takes a two-week break during the European and African championships. □

Sandra Quandt featured on Tele Aruba last night



ORANJESTAD – Last night, the television program presented by Timothy Charles invited artist Sandra Quandt to be a guest on the show “Creatividad” that airs each Thursday on Tele Aruba. Sandra is a local artist and works with sea shells as well as a variety of other articles from the beach.

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Dirk Kuyt, Enjoys Amazonia Hospitality



Palm Beach – A very famous international Dutch soccer star made it to Amazonia Churrascaria one evening this week, coming in with an entourage of family members and friends.

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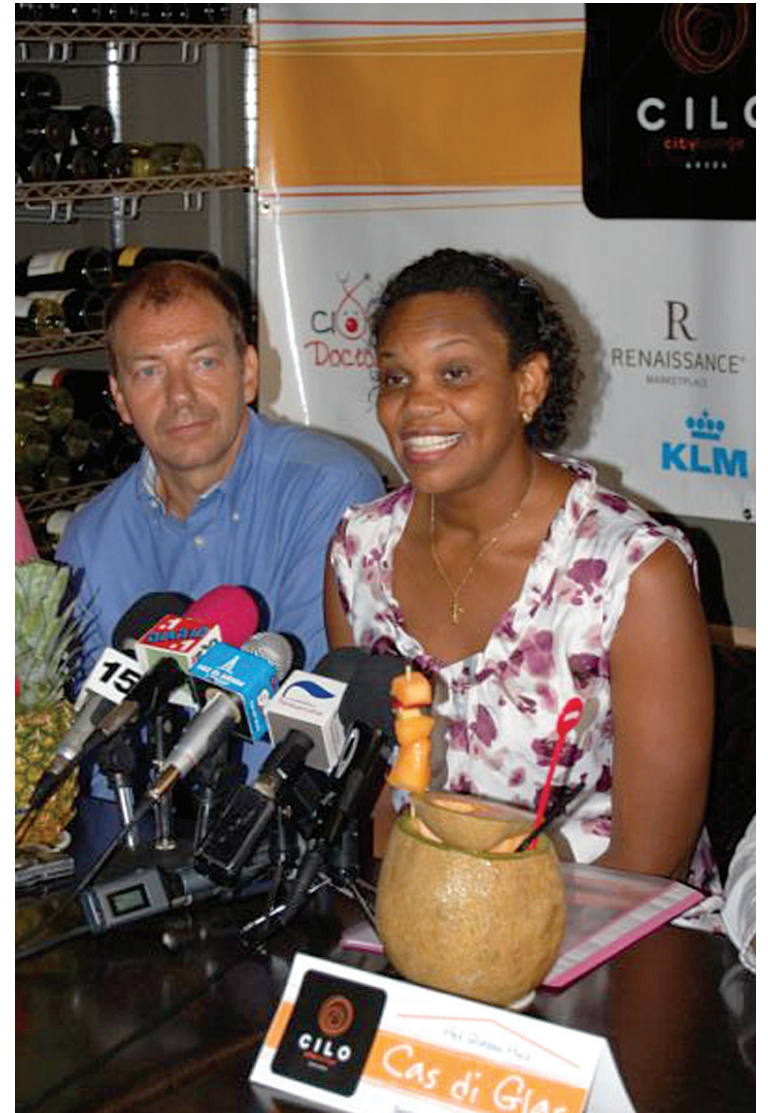
‘Hero deeja’s’ of the Cas di Glas introduced

Cas di Glas announced at Cilo City Lounge

Goal to raise 450,000 for Mobile Mammogram Unit

ORANJESTAD - A giant wave of enthusiasm went through CILO City Lounge on Thursday, July 22, when the exciting “Cas di Glas” event was introduced to the local press. Almost all the media was present when Peter Ballière explained what the Cas di Glas (House of Glass) is all about: a fun, fundraising happening with a serious undertone. “Four days of fun, music, dance and more will underscore the need for a mobile unit for breast cancer screening,” he said and he proceeded to explain that a united island can work miracles when everyone joins forces, especially when it is joining hands in the fight against cancer.

Continued on Page B4



Elegant Penthouse wedding for Verushka & Raymond



Palm Beach – Against a backdrop of a most perfect sunset, Verushka Juraine Kock and Raymond Joseph Every tied the knot on the 9th floor

penthouse of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. The civil ceremony was performed by official Annie Ridderstaal, as the couple was



surrounded by well-wishing family members and friends. The culinary team of the resort prepared an amazing menu, served on the open air terrace overlooking Palm Beach, against the musical backdrop of the 3SOM band. The menu included a Tokyo sampler of Sushi and Sashimi, a delicious Clam Chowder, Grilled Baby Lamb Chops, Bacon-Wrapped Scallops, Shrimp Cocktail Skewers, Thai Chicken Skewers, a Carving Station with slow-roasted Beef Tenderloin, Middle Eastern Baba Ganoush and Beef Shish Kebob, Shoarma Pockets, Tabbouleh

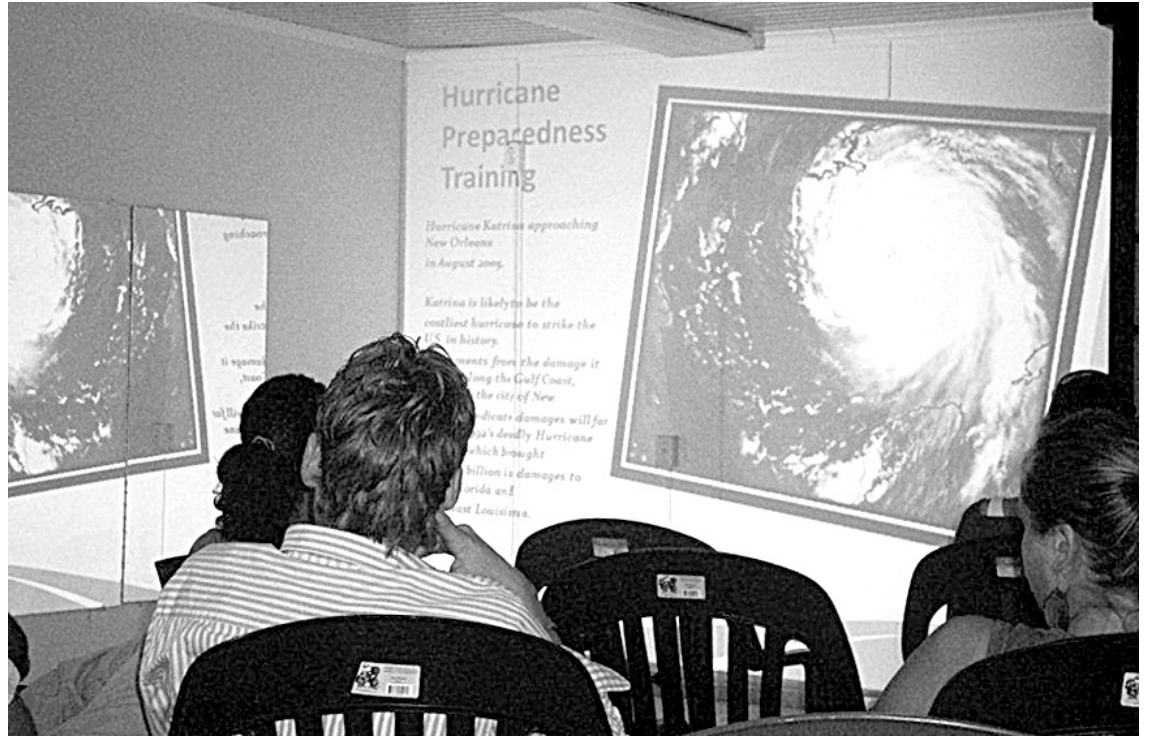


and Cous Cous Salad. The Sweethearts' Display was loaded with Cappuccino Cheese Cake, Chocolate Dipped Strawberries, White Chocolate Mousse, Panna Cotta and Apple Strudel. Pictured here the beautiful wedding at the 9th floor penthouse of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



Aaron Antersijn gives Hurricane Preparedness Training

Aruba Wine & Dine buckles up for Hurricane Season



PALM BEACH - Last week, a Hurricane Preparedness Training was given to the managers and maintenance staff of Aruba Wine & Dine. The training was given by Aaron Antersijn and although Aruba is outside of the Hurricane Belt, it is always better to be prepared. Aruba Wine & Dine consists of a group of 10 popular restaurants on the island including Hadicurari, MooMba Beach, Salt & Pepper, Tango, Sopranos, Fishes & More, Chino Latino, Cactus Jacks, Mambo Jambo and The Plaza Café. If a growing number of forecasts are correct, the hurricane season of 2010 could be a monster — one that will have the Caribbean and the Eastern states from the Gulf of Mexico to New England fearfully watching the sea all

summer. As recently as a few months ago, storm experts were predicting an average hurricane season this year, or maybe one even a little below average. In a typical year, the Atlantic brews up about six hurricanes. Last year, there were a paltry three. Just in the past week, however, hurricane watchers at universities and private forecasting companies have started to talk about numbers more like seven or eight. On Tuesday, Britain's official weather service — its venerable Met Office — joined the consensus.

"The 2010 hurricane season is not looking good," says Greg Holland, director of the Earth System Laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. This year is a lot like 2005, the worst hurricane system on record, he says. "Overall conditions are very similar, with one important difference: they are actually a bit worse."

The conditions that Holland

and the others are talking about have mostly to do with the temperature of the ocean. In the eastern Atlantic, the normal spawning grounds of hurricanes that threaten the U.S. and the Caribbean, the waters are the warmest they've been in 50 years — and all other things being equal, warmer surface temperatures mean more, and more powerful, hurricanes.

All other things are not equal, though, and in this case, that's not a good thing. For the past year or so, ocean temperatures in the Eastern Pacific have been elevated thanks to one of the periodic El Niño events that shows up every few years. When El Niño is in full force, it also alters wind patterns halfway around the world, creating something called vertical wind shear — winds blowing at different strengths or directions at different altitudes. That tends to rip hurricanes apart before they can get themselves organized.

Aruba sees record UK arrivals

The Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba has witnessed an 8.7% year-on-year increase in the first half of 2010. Establishing itself as one of the top 10 destinations in the Caribbean for the British market, Aruba recorded a total of 5,921 arrivals from the UK between January and June, compared with 5,445 for the same period the previous year. More than 30 UK tour operators now feature the island, including Kuoni, Thomas Cook Signature, Hayes & Jarvis and lastminute.com. "Our ArOOOHuba! campaign has proved extremely popular and, in combination with Thomson Airways' increased frequency, has helped us boost visitor numbers," said Aruba Tourism Authority UK Director Joanna Walding. "We

remain one of the fastest growing destinations in the Caribbean and preliminary bookings stand us in good stead for the second half of the year." The news follows a record 2009, where UK visitors to Aruba went up 28.3 per cent. It was the first time that ex-UK visitors surpassed 10,000 in a single year, making the UK second only to The Netherlands in generating visitors to the island among Aruba's European markets. Aruba is benefiting from an increased frequency in Thomson's charter flights to the island (operating now weekly from London Gatwick and Manchester) and a high-profile advertising campaign in London and Manchester earlier this year, for which it won a Travel Marketing Award in the "Best Poster Advertising" category.



Cas di Glas announced at Cilo City Lounge



Continued from Page B1

The event will be held from September 29th to October 3rd and organized by a great team including Ballière, president of the Clown Doctors Aruba, together with Thaisse Erasmus and Helen Bongers who are also with the Clown Doctors, Esmeralda Schotman, Alfons

Linders of Media Services International, Alex Ponson of Cool FM, Kim d'Hont of CILO, and Lillian Prince of the Queen Wilhelmina Fund. The program is as follows: on Wednesday, when the deejays will enter their new home, an Aruban evening with a superstar singer and a fantastic

local band is planned. Booths with all kinds of information about health and medical issues, about nutrition and much more will be manned and a sports arena will have daily demonstration matches of Aruba's top soccer, volleyball and beach tennis players. A casino/horeca beach tennis night tournament will see to it that this group will not be forgotten either.

Reggae sensation Mulato from Venezuela will be performing on Thursday evening together with a surprise act from a famous colleague. Friday night is reserved for an international top deejay and Saturday night for Zissles; they will put on a Studio 54 show especially for this occasion. Dancers and singers will put



the show live on stage in front of CILO. On Sunday evening, when the total amount of this incredible telethon-type event will be revealed and the tired deejays can finally leave their house, an internationally top act will perform live for a super spectacular finale of the event.

The idea is that three deejays will be sequestered in a house of glass, providing entertainment and raising funds for a mobile unit that visits the barrios on the island. On Aruba two women a week are diagnosed with breast cancer; a higher number than average, so Ballière hopes that more women will get themselves tested, but also that the suffering that is synonymous with this terrible disease will lessen considerably when women are diagnosed at an earlier stage. Information booths, interviews and general information about health, sports and nutrition will put emphasis on a healthier lifestyle during the event. An emotional moment came from DJ101 Jean Carlo of Cool FM: he spoke with a quiet voice about the death of his mother from cancer last year. "I entered another world when I entered a world with cancer," he said with immense sorrow sounding in his voice. Jean Carlo is very motivated to prevent others going through what he has gone through and his recent personal loss plays a big factor in his decision to be one of the 'hero deejays' of the Cas di Glas. Well-known television host Siomara Everon of TeleAruba was next: she said that her motivation came from the fact that everyone knows somebody who is battling

or who has survived cancer. "It has not hit me yet, but it might hit me any moment. Everybody should know about cancer; there should not be a threshold or shame anymore." Siomara will be the only woman in the house of glass; as she is a tough cookie she is expected to do extremely well. Last, but certainly not least, was deejay One-o-One (Albert), who is taking the opportunity to drink only fruit and vegetable juices during his four-day stay in the house to lose a considerable amount of weight. As Albert is a role model for Aruba's youth, his effort will hopefully snowball. His personal trainer is Rudy Carti, whose track record is already fantastic. Albert is committed to make the Cas di Glas event into a super hype: he is starting to promote it already as we speak. Getting a mobile unit on the island is a greater goal for him than losing weight. Several big and small sponsors have already lined up in an effort to help and more are coming. The Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (Mrs. Lilian Prince) and radiologist Vanessa Williams of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital are standing right behind the Cas di Glas project as well, with great enthusiasm as well. The press conference at CILO was the kick-off of a roller coaster towards a unique success in which One Island shows that it can speak out with One Voice. Sponsors include: Elite, Divi Resorts, Power Systems Aruba, Art & Design, Media Services International, Zissles, Renaissance, Taste of Belgium, Protec, Digicel and KLM/Martinair. □



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CHTA Education Foundation

Curaçao's Giancarlo Rosa Awarded Two Scholarships

SAN JUAN – In a rare instance where a Caribbean youth has demonstrated significant potential deserving of multiple scholarships from the CHTA Education Foundation (CHTAEF), Curaçao's Giancarlo Rosa was recently awarded two 2010 scholarships.

The first scholarship is for Professional Development from Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide in the amount of US\$1,900, which is matched by Cornell University. Totaling US\$3,800, the two scholarships will enable the Avila Hotel employee to further hone his Leadership Abilities. The Curaçao Hospitality & Tourism Association (CHATA) extends their congratulations to Giancarlo and the Avila Hotel, and hopes that upon his return, Giancarlo will be able to assist Curaçao's efforts to improve its tourism industry.

"Giancarlo's success story should serve as inspiration to other youth throughout Curaçao and the rest of the Caribbean who can maximize their potential by dedicating themselves to the development of their professional careers as well as their county's tourism industries," noted CHTAEF Chairman Tom Pas.

In 2010, the CHTAEF awarded a total of US\$145,000 in 44 scholarships after receiving 52 applications covering 15 Caribbean countries.

CHTA Education Foundation

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Education Foundation (CHTAEF) was established in 1987 as a stand-alone non-profit / tax-exempt organization, through which scholarships and special assistance would be made available for the education of Caribbean hotel industry personnel

and students pursuing careers in tourism. As part of its mission, the Education Foundation provides people throughout the Caribbean region with an awareness of the industry's varied career opportunities, as well as technical and professional development. Since 1987, the Education Foundation has awarded more than US\$1 million in scholarships and grants to applicants who demonstrate a strong commitment to the hospitality and tourism industry.

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association

The Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) facilitates the full potential of the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry by serving members' needs and building partnerships in a socially responsible and sustainable manner. CHTA was founded in 1962; it is the voice of the Caribbean




Giancarlo Rosa celebrates his 2010 CHTAEF scholarships

hospitality industry for the development of the region in the highly competitive and sophisticated environment of international tourism. Today, tourism is widely recognized as a pivotal industry in the

economy of the region – and CHTA functions as the common denominator for this industry in a region of diverse nationalities, languages and styles, identifying mutual problems and marshalling

the resources of the active and allied members to devise solutions. CHTA represents all facets of the hospitality industry with more than 725 member hotels and 525 allied members. □



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HUMAN HINTS

The Ultimate Human Desire

The Ultimate Human Desire is to find Completion. The longing for our natural state of Unity lies in the deepest core of every Human. Unity Consciousness shattered itself into tiny individual fragments in order to understand separation, and to feel what it is like to forget that we're all from the same Source.

An infinite consciousness has no concept of separation, so individual pieces of Unity Consciousness entered into a three dimensional Human body to see what separation and limitation would be like. The point is to forget that we're all a part of Unity Consciousness. As a Whole, we thought it would be an interesting game. Think of God creating a rock that's too heavy for Her to lift. The Infinite wants to experience Limitation.

That leaves us Humans with an inherent longing for completion. We all know the excitement of attraction and the thrill of Union. Longing for Completion is the force that drives the Human Race. We seek Union throughout our lives. Our Desire for Unity drives us to grow and gives us the energy to strive for our goals.

Then, the instant we attain fourth dimensional awareness, we remember that we've never been separate after all. We fully understand on an

emotional level, that the physical realm truly is an illusion. When we see the game for what it is, we instantly want to jump back into it. Pieces of Infinite Spirit are clamoring to get into a Human body.

Humanity on Earth is the greatest show in all the Energetic Realms, especially right now, at the moment we are is transforming into fourth dimensional awareness, while still in three dimensions. Cool. Embrace it, don't waste it.

This can be helpful in real life because the more you understand your motivations, the more you will become aware of your true intentions. When you understand what drives you and the results you strive for, you will be able to change them.

The underlying challenge is to find completion within our selves. We must realize that we ARE complete because we are all a piece of Unity. When we look for Completion outside of ourselves, we are looking for Unity in Separation, and we won't find it there. You satisfy the Ultimate Human Desire by looking inside yourself, accepting what you see and forgiving what you don't want to accept. There you will find Genuine Completion and natural fulfillment like Humanity has rarely experienced.

When you realize that you are One with the Whole,

you will find infinite abundance in all aspects of your life. Realizing that you already have infinite abundance brings you closer to Unity and vice-versa. The energy works both ways.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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UNTHINKABLE
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
CARRIE-ANNE MOSS
MICHAEL SHEEN
A MONSTROUS 3D EVENT. MARCH 2009

MONSTERS VS ALIENS
A MONSTROUS 3D EVENT. MARCH 2009

INCEPTION
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DARK KNIGHT

SALT
ANGELINA JOLIE
MOVIE "SALT" PREMIERES AT CRYSTAL THEATER AND WILL BE SHOWN AT PASEO HERENCIA STARTING MONDAY JULY 26TH



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JULY 23 - JULY 29

*matinee: everyday | late show: friday & saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG-13	INCEPTION	daily: 8:00	late show: 11:00
NEW	matinee:		
R	UNTHINKABLE	6:45	9:00
NEW	matinee:		late show: 11:15
PG	MONSTERS VS ALIENS		4:30
NEW	daily: 12:00	14:15	late show:
PG	DESPICABLE ME 3D	4:30	
	matinee: 12:00	2:15	late show:
PG	THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE	5:30	8:00
	matinee: 12:30	3:00	late show: 11:00
PG	THE KARATE KID		
	daily: 12:15	3:15	late show:
PG-13	GROWN UPS	4:45	7:00
	matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 11:30
PG	TOY STORY 3 3D		5:30
	daily: 12:30	3:00	late show:
R	PREDATORS	6:30	9:00
	matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:50
PG	THE LAST AIRBENDER	6:45	9:00
	daily: 12:30		late show: 11:15

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	SALT Starting Monday July 26TH	daily: 4:15	6:30	8:30
NEW	matinee:		late show: 11:00	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 12:00	2:00	late show:
PG	DESPICABLE ME 3D	4:45		
	matinee: 12:15	2:30	late show:	
PG	THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE	daily: 3:45	6:15	8:45
	matinee: 1:00		late show: 11:15	
PG	THE LAST AIRBENDER	daily: 7:00	9:15	11:30
	matinee:		late show:	
PG-13	GROWN UPS	daily: 4:45	7:15	9:30
	matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 11:45	
PG-13	KNIGHT & DAY	daily: 6:30	9:00	
	matinee:		late show: 11:30	
PG	THE KARATE KID	daily: 3:30		
	matinee: 12:30		late show:	
PG-13	TOY STORY 3 3D	daily: 4:00	6:30	
	matinee: 1:30		late show:	
PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE	daily: 9:00		
	matinee:		late show: 11:45	

Tony Roma's is the island's headquarters for ribs!

Many restaurants claim to have the best ribs in the land, but only Tony Roma's world famous ribs continue to rack up taste awards from a variety of cities, regions, and countries across the globe. Tony Roma's Palm Beach brings this classic to Aruba.

Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

Today, there are more than 240 locations on five continents. From Seattle to Miami, Tokyo to Madrid, and Calgary to Aruba, Tony Roma's is creating an international incident with its flame-grilled fare. Discover why Tony Roma's is now an island dining institution!

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Bow Tie Pasta with Chicken in Scampi Sauce.....	\$12
Chicken Tender Platter.....	\$13
Fish & Fries.....	\$13
Chicken Stack with Pasta Alfredo.....	\$14
Full Slab Original Baby Back Ribs.....	\$15
Jamaican Grilled Chicken.....	\$15

Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!'
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'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol

Butz, Belair, Maryland. 'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely



dancers...a treat for the entire family.

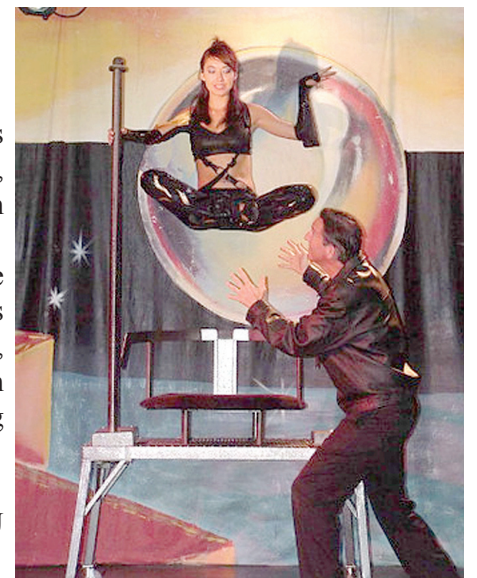
SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!"

Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

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IF YOU GO

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Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
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Price: \$19.95 (under 15), / \$34.95 adults
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“Creatividad” with Timothy Charles

Sandra Quandt featured on Tele Aruba last night



ORANJESTAD – Last night, the television program presented by Timothy Charles invited artist Sandra Quandt to be a guest on the show “Creatividad” that airs each Thursday on Tele Aruba. Sandra is a local artist and works with sea shells as well as a variety of other articles from the beach and the sea to create fascinating artworks. The interview was very interesting and showcased a variety of different pieces of natural seashell art. “Creatividad” is the name of the program presented by Timothy Charles on Tele Aruba and features everything to do with art. □



Dirk Kuyt, Enjoys Amazonia Hospitality

Palm Beach – A very famous international Dutch soccer star made it to Amazonia Churrascaria one evening this week, coming in with an entourage of family members and friends, to enjoy a measure of anonymity and a sense of true vacation. It was his second visit to the restaurant. He came to the island privately last year, in June, on vacation with his family and this time, he was invited to Aruba, post FIFA World Cup Games, with a number of colleagues from the final Dutch squad of 23 participants, as a guest of the island government, in gratitude for the players great performance.

Kuyt started all seven matches for the Dutch and finished the tournament with one goal and three assists.

The friendly waiters and carvers made sure his experience was superb and provided him and his guests with a great hospitality and fantastic food. □



Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona on Friday Night



ORANJESTAD - Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Friday night. This is a show that shouldn't be missed.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.**

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata



Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

An amazing wedding at Radisson Resort

Laura & John vow eternal love



RADISSON- Recently at Radisson Resort, John Zuhoski IV and Laura Sassone of Long Island, New York pledged eternal love at sunset. The love birds met in highschool senior year while on the rowing team. They trained together and became good friends and soon after they started dating. Laura received a full scholarship for her great performance. They went to college and both studied to be teachers.

While on vacation in Malibu California John surprised Laura while on a cliff overlooking the ocean and proposed his love. Soon after they planned a destination wedding in Aruba because they knew it was the perfect place with great weather and pristine beaches.

On July 9, 2010 Mother Nature decided to bless John & Laura with a little rain so the ceremony was held on the terrace overlooking the tropical garden and ocean. They vowed there love amongst family and friends who gathered for the union of marriage.

Following the ceremony Bella Aruba Photography took everyone on the beach for an amazing photo shoot at sunset. The skies were breathtaking and Mother Nature once again blessed the newlyweds. The reception took place in the ballroom



with a fabulous setting to rejoice the marriage.

"We want to thank Lisa Dammerman, bridal specialist of Radisson Resort and the Radisson staff at making our special day one to remember.

We also want to thank all our guests for making the trip to Aruba and being a part of our special day" stated Mr & Mrs. Zuhoski. □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Funding woes overshadow AIDS conference

By VERONIKA OLEKSYN,
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA—Rich countries must give more for the fight against AIDS or risk jeopardizing progress in battling the disease, participants at an international conference urged Thursday. At issue is the replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which provides major support for AIDS programs around the world.

Donors meet in October to decide on the fund's financing level for the next three years amid concerns that a desired \$20 billion in pledges won't be reached. The matter has overshadowed the AIDS 2010 conference in Vienna, the Austrian capital, attended by thousands of experts and advocates.

"This is not the time to withdraw resources from AIDS," said Nicci Stein, director of the Canadian-based Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development. "We

risk losing the investments made to date and we will be betraying those communities who for the first time have real hope for the future."

Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global Fund, underscored that much was at stake.

"I certainly agree with the fact that a lot of the progress that we have made could indeed be lost," he told The Associated Press. "I know there is an economic crisis but then I'm saying this is a political decision and politics is about choices and where you put your priorities."

Programs financed by the Global Fund were providing antiretroviral treatment to 2.5 million people at the end of 2009.

Stein and other activists from a range of countries and civil society groups warned that underfunding would be particularly problematic for sub-Saharan Africa.

To make their point, they

issued report cards for 13 rich countries. Austria, the host of the conference, did the worst and got an "F" for giving just \$1.1 million to the fund since its inception in 2002. The country has been criticized by delegates — and speakers — for days over its inaction.

Kazatchkine said he was surprised by Austria's stance, articulated in a very strongly worded recent letter, adding he planned to personally write to President Heinz Fischer about the matter.

He said the Global Fund is not based on theoretical needs but rather responds directly to requests by countries who have to specify how they will spend the money.

"If I look retrospectively at the last seven years, 85 percent of the targets have been achieved," he said.

Earlier this week, the World Health Organization announced that the number of people taking crucial AIDS drugs climbed by



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (L) and Vietnam's Minister of Justice Ha Hung Cuong sign a memorandum of understanding for U.S. support of HIV/AIDS programs in Vietnam, at Ngoc Lam Pagoda in Hanoi July 22, 2010. Clinton is in Hanoi for the ASEAN Regional Forum which takes place from July 19 to 23.

REUTERS/Julian Abram Wainwright/Pool

a record 1.2 million last year to 5.2 million overall. Between 2003 and 2010, the number of patients receiving lifesaving antiretroviral treatment increased twelve-fold, according to the Geneva-based body.

To Joyce Kamwana, a woman

from Malawi who is HIV positive, medication provided through the Global Fund made it possible for her to take care of her daughters and live to become a grandmother.

"To me personally, the Global Fund is my lifeline," Kamwana said.



A social worker collects a box of used syringes at a needle exchange spot on July 6 at an HIV/AIDS clinic in Kiev. Official indifference, stigma and a blinkered reflex to criminalise drug addicts have turned Eastern Europe and Central Asia into the region where HIV is spreading fastest, the world AIDS forum heard.

by Luc Andre

VIENNA (AFP) — Official indifference, stigma and a blinkered reflex to criminalise drug addicts have turned Eastern Europe and Central Asia into the region where HIV is spreading fastest, the world AIDS forum heard.

The six-day forum staged a series of workshops and seminars where policymakers and grassroots workers portrayed a regional pandemic growing at murderous pace.

Authoritarian policies, homophobia and a refusal to accept solutions tested

Lethal mixture drives AIDS pandemic in ex-Soviet bloc

elsewhere and proven successful are to blame, many said.

The main vector for spreading the AIDS virus is shared use of syringes among intravenous drug addicts, followed by sexual transmission by these individuals to their partners, Martin Donoghoe, programme manager for HIV/AIDS for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Europe, told AFP.

Many infected drug users then turn to prostitution to feed their habit, which thus enables HIV to be catapulted into the mainstream, researchers have also found.

"The first intervention would be to give clean needles and syringes to drug injectors. This

helps prevent transmission of the virus," said Donoghoe.

"The second is to get the drug injectors into drug dependence treatment," such as substitution therapy with methadone, he said.

Years of experience in Western Europe and other countries have shown that these so-called Harm reduction programmes, when combined, can reduce new infections of HIV by up to half.

But in most of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the programmes are not implemented -- not for lack of funds, but because political resistance.

"It remains controversial in eastern Europe," explained

Donoghoe. In particular, "there are some questions regarding whether you should be giving what is basically a drug to substitute for another drug."

Use of methadone for therapeutic purposes was especially banned in Russia, he said.

Some 1.5 million people in the region were infected with the human immunodeficiency (HIV) in 2008, compared to 900,000 in 2001, according to UNAIDS.

More than two-thirds of them lived in Russia, which combined with Ukraine accounts for more than 90 percent of the region's infections. □

Sister monument to Stonehenge may have been found



**** FILE **** This is a Sept. 15, 2004. file photo of tourists looking at The Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in England. Scientists scouring the area around Stonehenge said Thursday July 22, 2010 they have uncovered the foundations of a second circular structure only a few hundred meters (yards) from the world famous monument.

(AP Photo/Dave Caulkin, File)

By **RAPHAEL G. SATTER**,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Scientists scouring the area around Stonehenge said Thursday they have uncovered a circular structure only a few hundred meters (yards) from the world famous monument.

There's some debate about what exactly has been found. The survey team which uncovered the structure said it could be the foundation for a circle of freestanding pieces of timber, a wooden version of Stonehenge.

But Tim Darvill, a professor of archaeology at Bournemouth University in southern England, expressed skepticism, saying he believed it was more likely a barrow, or prehistoric tomb.

Darvill did say that the circle

was one of an expanding number of discoveries being made around Stonehenge which "really shows how much there is still to learn and how extensive the site really was."

"In its day Stonehenge was at the center of the largest ceremonial center in Europe," he said.

The stonehenge that is visible today is thought to have been completed about 3,500 years ago, although the first earthwork henge on the site was probably built more than 5,000 years ago.

Although antiquarians have been poking around the area since the 18th century, excavations are now tightly restricted. So archeologists have been scanning the surrounding fields and

pastures with magnetic and radar sensors pulled across the grass by tractors or quad bikes. The new structure was found when scans identified a cluster of deep pits surrounded by a ring of smaller holes about 900 meters (a little over half a mile) from Stonehenge and within sight of its famous standing stones.

University of Birmingham archaeologist Henry Chapman said he was convinced the small holes were used to secure a circle of wooden poles which stood "possibly three or more meters (10 or more feet) high."

The timber henge — a name given to prehistoric monuments surrounded by a circular ditch — would have been constructed and modified at the same time as its more famous relative, and probably had some allied ceremonial or religious function, Chapman said in a telephone interview from Stonehenge.

Exactly what kind of ceremonies those were is unclear. The new henge joins a growing complex of tombs and mysterious Neolithic

structures found across the area. The closest equivalent is probably the nearby Woodhenge, a monument once composed of six rings of wooden posts enclosed by an earth embankment. Excavations there in the 1970s revealed the body of child whose skull had been split buried at the center of the henge — hinting at the possibility of human sacrifice. A stone's throw from the newly found henge is a formation known as the Cursus, a 3-kilometer-long (1.8-mile-long) earthwork whose purpose remains unknown. Also nearby is a puzzling chunk of land known as the Northern Kite Enclosure; Bronze Age farmers seem to have avoided cultivating crops there, although no one is sure quite why.

The whole area around Stonehenge is dotted with prehistoric cemeteries — some of which predate the monument itself — and new discoveries are made occasionally.

Last year, researchers said they had found a small circle

of stones on the banks of the nearby River Avon. Experts speculated the stone circle — dubbed "Bluehenge" because it was built with bluestones — may have served as the starting point of a processional walk that began at the river and ended at Stonehenge.

Chapman's team is still in the early stages of its work, having surveyed only about four square kilometers (1.5 square miles) of the 16 square kilometers (six square miles) it eventually plans to map.

The survey is being led by the University of Birmingham and the Austria-based Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, with support from other institutions and researchers from Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Henges of various descriptions exist throughout Britain — from the Standing Stones of Stenness on the northern island of Orkney to the Maumbury Rings in southern England county of Dorset.

Stonehenge, a World Heritage Site, remains the best-known □

Astronomers Find Largest Molecules Ever Known in Space

JR Minkel

Astronomers have found evidence of buckyballs - carbon molecules shaped like soccer balls - in the nebula around a distant white dwarf star. The discovery marks the largest molecules known to exist in space.

Normally found in chemistry labs, where they are made by vaporizing graphite in the presence of helium, buckyballs were long suspected to form inside stars.

"As soon as they were discovered in the lab it was actually suggested they would be very good candidates to be found in space," astronomer Jan Cami of the University of Western Ontario, who led the new study, told SPACE.com.

Elusive buckyballs

Researchers had searched for buckyballs before in the gas and dust between and around stars, but the evidence was inconclusive. Cami and his colleagues identified buckyball molecules, known as C60 because they are made of 60 carbon atoms each.

The buckyballs are about 1 nanometer in size, about three times larger than water molecules, which are about 0.3 nanometers in size and consist of three atoms (one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms). One nanometer is a billionth of a meter, or about one ten-thousandth the diameter of a human hair.

The buckyball molecules were discovered in the planetary nebula Tc-1, which is about 6,500 light-years away in the southern constellation Ara. Despite their name, planetary nebulas

are actually clouds of gas around stars, not planets. "What we see is a very clean and very recognizable fingerprint for only two species," Cami said - C60 and a closely related molecule called C70, made of 70 carbon atoms. Both C60 and C70 belong to a class of molecules termed buckminsterfullerenes, or just fullerenes, after architect Buckminster Fuller.

Together the two fullerenes make up about 3 percent of the available carbon around the star, the researchers reported.

Tc-1 contains what is known as an asymptotic giant branch (AGB) star. The inner regions of these stars have become dense, dim stars called white dwarfs, while their outer stellar envelopes have sloughed off. The resulting cloud of shed layers undergoes chemical reactions and is ionized by radiation from the inner white dwarf, creating a planetary nebula that will eventually become part of the interstellar medium.

Large molecules in space

The new finding came when a colleague of Cami's was looking at infrared data from the Spitzer Space Telescope. Every molecule in space soaks up infrared light at a unique set of wavelengths, resulting in a kind of chemical fingerprint. "He had this one object that looked very strange to him," Cami said. "The spectrum didn't look quite like anything he had seen before." Normally the nebula around an AGB star will contain hydrogen, which inhibits the reaction that produces fullerenes, and also tends to obscure any signal from the molecules. □

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Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

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Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad

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Warda Polis	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Warda Polis	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

Elmar	583-3000
Informacion	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
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Voogdijraad	582-1262
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All apologies? Not from some conservative talkers

By Michael Calderone

President Obama apologized on the phone to Shirley Sherrod. Fox News host Bill O'Reilly did so on the air.

Roberts Gibbs accepted blame Wednesday and dished some out on the media. That night, Keith Olbermann blasted Fox News—as usual—but held others accountable, too, including the Obama administration, government bureaucrats, and “the whole of the cowering media, this network included.”

But not everyone feels the need to apologize to Sherrod or hold back from criticizing the now much-praised former Department of Agriculture official. It's small club, but it has some pretty vocal members.

“What the hell do I have to apologize for,” said Mark Levin, an author and top conservative radio host. “I didn't hire her. I didn't fire her.”

Levin, in an interview with The Upshot, compared the media—including some Beltway conservatives—to minnows in an aquarium. If you tap the glass, they all swim one way, he said; tap it again, they go the other way. He said that few people in the media are analyzing the entire March speech, which he believes shows Sherrod “as somebody who's stuck in the race-baiting game.”

Some conservatives agree. Brent Bozell, founder of the Media Research Center, appeared on Levin's show yesterday and similarly said that Sherrod has a race-driven agenda.

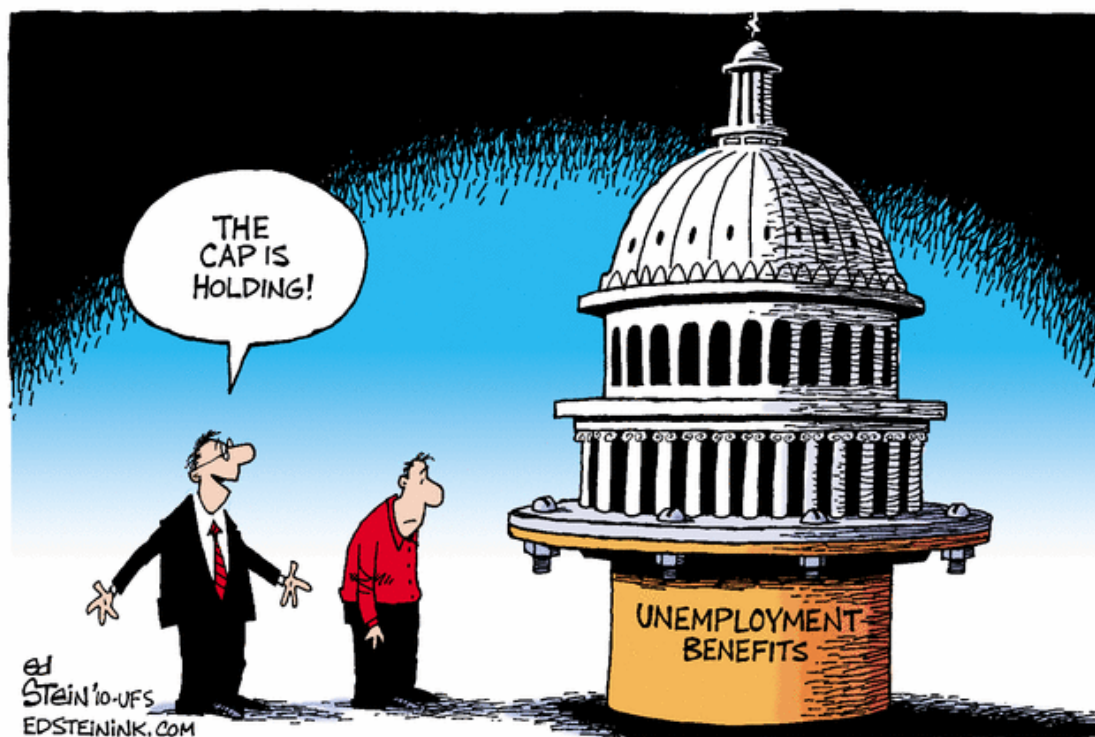
Rush Limbaugh, on the air Thursday, praised both Bozell and Levin, along with Fox News host Sean Hannity for not backing off criticizing Sherrod or turning on Andrew Breitbart for posting the out-of-context clip. (Despite numerous calls to apologize, Breitbart still hasn't done so and said Thursday that Sherrod “sees things through a racial prism.”)

“Even Fox caved on this,” Limbaugh said. “Even Shep Smith. Even poor old Shep Smith went down there and said that everybody's wrong on this, and Breitbart is wrong and so forth. There's only a handful of us that have the guts to put this story straight.”

When it comes to Fox News, O'Reilly may actually fall into both camps. Yes, he apologized for “not putting [Sherrod's] remarks in the proper context” when calling on her to resign Monday night.

But O'Reilly didn't spend the rest of his “Talking Points” segment in a defensive position.

Instead, he went back on the attack, arguing that while the initial scandal may have been misguided, other parts of the speech required an explanation. □



Next after Obama signing of financial reform bill: Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac

One triumph for the United States during the 20th century was that it went from being a nation of largely renters to mostly homeowners. The American dream was made real in picket fences and title deeds.

The 21st century may look very different, however, once President Obama decides whether taxpayers should continue to support private home purchases – knowing in hindsight how far the housing market has collapsed since 2007 while leaving government with more than \$400 billion in debt. That red ink is mainly due to a federal takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the great enablers of the home-buying binge.

So far Mr. Obama has put off the issue of whether to reduce the federal role in buying a home, preferring instead to wait until the home market further stabilizes and his Treasury Department devises reforms for Fannie and Freddie. In the meantime, he signed legislation Wednesday aimed at reforming other areas of the financial system – but not the public mortgage system.

Americans must be on guard to prevent government from again creating another housing bubble. This last one burst with little warning, polluting the economy with “toxic” mortgages that spread like the BP oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico.

They must also be wary of again letting government essentially run a business. Both Fannie and Freddie were created by Congress, given implied guarantees of government backing, and then quotas for selling of mortgages. The result was political bribery by the housing industry to lawmakers in the form of campaign contributions – and more.

One mortgage company, Countrywide Financial Corporation, gave discount loans to some key members of Congress and to 153 employees of Fannie Mae.

The need for Fannie and Freddie to help low-income Americans is over. They were created by Congress decades ago as profitmaking hedge funds to build up an investment market for the buying and selling of mortgages in bundles. But financial markets are now big enough to take on most of that complex role, allowing government to phase out the two institutions. For the sake of remaking the US economy, Obama should endorse new and better incentives that entice Americans to put their savings into industries that can compete in global markets. Federal incentives for homeownership, while creating jobs in that industry, create an artificial market prone to political meddling by lawmakers on the take from the housing lobby. And, now we learn all too late, homeownership may not create long-term wealth or retirement kitties. Long-term wealth lies in competitive export industries and services.

Plenty of smart economists are now devising clever schemes for Fannie-lite institutions, claiming safeguards against previous pitfalls. The Treasury Department is due to recommend its reforms to Congress in a few months.

But any federal institution charged to subsidize homeownership will be prone to political pressures in Congress to lower lending standards so that more people can buy homes. The cycle toward a housing collapse would begin again. And money that might have gone to more productive industries and services would have been wasted. □



"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

Presidente Chávez rompe relación con Colombia por acusación de apoyo a guerrilleros

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela rompió el jueves las relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia luego de que su vecino lo acusara de dar refugio a guerrilleros izquierdistas y, aunque puso en alerta a su Ejército, un conflicto armado no se vislumbra en el horizonte.

El presidente Hugo Chávez reaccionó después de que Colombia, el mayor aliado de Estados Unidos en la región, pidió a la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) enviar una misión a corroborar la existencia de supuestos campamentos rebeldes en Venezuela.

“Yo me veo obligado a romper relaciones con el Gobierno de Colombia por dignidad, y estaremos alertas”, dijo el mandatario por el canal de TV estatal al rechazar las acusaciones.

Aunque no es la primera vez que Colombia y Venezuela lastiman sus lazos bilaterales, el anuncio volvió a sembrar tensión en la zona andina porque comparten una frontera de más de 2.000 kilómetros repleta de soldados de ambos bandos.

“Yo alerta a la comunidad internacional que nosotros no aceptaremos ningún tipo de agresión ni de violaciones a nuestra soberanía (...), a una guerra con Colombia habría que ir llorando pero habría que ir”, dijo Chávez.

Pocos creen probable que el mandatario venezolano impulse un conflicto armado. Incluso Chávez dejó la puerta abierta para recomponer los lazos con el mandatario electo Juan Manuel Santos, quien asume en un par de semanas para suceder al archirrival del venezolano, el presidente Alvaro Uribe.

El presidente izquierdista dijo que esperaba que Santos contribuyera a retomar la relación bilateral, que desde mediados del año pasado sufre un congelamiento en el comercio ante la ampliación de un pacto militar entre Bogotá y Washington que



El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, durante un discurso en el palacio de Gobierno en Caracas, jul 22 2010. Venezuela volvió a romper el jueves sus relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia por acusaciones de Bogotá de que resguarda a guerrilleros en su territorio, en otro capítulo del largo conflicto entre el mayor aliado de Washington en la región y su principal detractor. REUTERS/Jorge Silva

Chávez vio como amenaza para su “revolución socialista” y su riqueza petrolera.

“Sobre el tema de las relaciones nuestras con Venezuela, he creído que la mejor contribución que podemos hacer es no pronunciarnos. El presidente Uribe es el presidente de la República hasta el próximo 7 de agosto”, dijo Santos en rueda de prensa durante una visita a la Ciudad de México.

CAMPAMENTOS DE VERANO

Mientras tanto, Venezuela ordenó el cierre inmediato de su sede diplomática en Bogotá y dio un ultimátum de 72 horas a los representantes colombianos en su país para que crucen la frontera y cierren la puerta de la embajada.

A pesar de que Bogotá ya había denunciado a Caracas por supuestamente proteger a rebeldes, el embajador colombiano ante la OEA presentó formalmente el jueves lo que dijo eran pruebas de la presencia en Venezuela

de líderes de la guerrilla de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) y el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN).

“Que se constituya una comisión internacional de verificación con todos los estados presentes en la OEA, todos los que quieran para ir a estos sitios”, pidió el embajador Luis Alfonso Hoyos ante la Comisión Permanente del organismo.

Colombia presentó información que dijo fue entregada por guerrilleros

desmovilizados, que incluyó fotos, videos y documentos de los campamentos con coordenadas de ubicación en territorio venezolano, donde afirmó que guerrilleros preparan tomas, secuestros y se recuperan de ataques.

“Algunas de estas zonas se han convertido prácticamente en campamentos de verano, allá tienen un montón de gente engordando, un grupo de gente que no los persigue”, dijo Hoyos, quien pidió a Venezuela que persiga a 1.500 guerrilleros de esos grupos y los entregue para que sean juzgados.

Chávez desafió al Gobierno de Colombia a probar las acusaciones lanzadas en la reunión en Washington.

Aunque las declaraciones de ambas partes subieron de temperatura, el secretario de la Presidencia colombiana, César Velásquez, aseguró a Reuters que no se movilizarán tropas a la frontera.

Del otro lado de la frontera, el presidente venezolano ordenó la máxima alerta en la división terrestre, pero hasta fin de la tarde Reuters no obtuvo información de fuentes militares de que se estuviesen aplicando medidas especiales.

Hace más de dos años, Caracas movilizó tropas a la frontera después de que militares colombianos irrumpieron en un campamento guerrillero en Ecuador, lo que Chávez consideró una violación a la soberanía de su aliado el Gobierno de Quito.

Entonces también Chávez soltó amenazas de guerra, pero hizo las paces con Uribe poco después estrechando su mano en una cumbre del Grupo de Río.

“No estamos en una situación que sea muy distinta de lo que ha pasado en los últimos tres o cuatro años, donde Colombia estaba permanentemente denunciando presencia de la guerrilla colombiana en Venezuela”, dijo el analista venezolano José Carrasquero. “No creo que la sangre vaya a llegar al río”, agregó.

Ex presidente Kirchner

Unasur ayudará a mediar entre Venezuela y Colombia

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - La Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) ayudará a mediar en el conflicto desatado el jueves entre Venezuela y Colombia, señaló el secretario general del bloque, el argentino Néstor Kirchner.

La agencia estatal de noticias Télam informó que Kirchner dialogó con el mandatario ecuatoriano, Rafael Correa, y con el presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, con quienes acordó “hacer todos los esfuerzos posibles para superar la crisis”.

Venezuela rompió el jueves sus relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia después de que su vecino lo acusara de refugiar a guerrilleros, aunque no se prevé un conflicto armado entre los dos países.

La relación entre Venezuela y Colombia es difícil desde hace años, pero la ruptura incrementó la tensión en la región porque la frontera de más de 2.000 kilómetros que separa a las dos naciones está atestada de soldados de ambos bandos. □

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